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the magic  
of Tahiti*



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refused hot showers  
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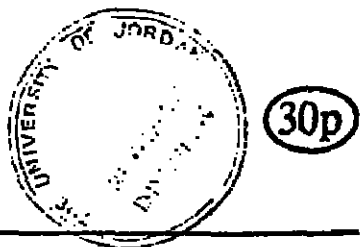


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# THE TIMES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 1990



## De Klerk ends ban on ANC and communists: Mandela freed soon

### South Africa begins trek to democracy

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

President de Klerk of South Africa yesterday lifted the 30-year ban on the African National Congress and announced the imminent release of Nelson Mandela in a speech that stunned the world with the extent of its reforms.

Restrictions on some 30 other anti-apartheid organizations are to be lifted, political prisoners will be freed and the death sentence is to be suspended, Mr de Klerk told the opening of Parliament in Cape Town.

Inviting the ANC to negotiate a new power-sharing agreement, he said: "The season of violence is over. The time for reconstruction and reconciliation has arrived."

His speech was immediately welcomed around the world.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher called it an historic landmark and a vindication of Britain's non-sanctions policy, and President Bush said he viewed Mr de Klerk's remarks positively, but said further progress would be needed before sanctions could be lifted. Both leaders indicated that they invite both Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela to their countries.

President Kaunda of Zambia, where the ANC is based, offered "heartily congratulations for a job well started".

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and Nigeria's external affairs minister, Mr Rilwanu Lukman, said: "We are sure this signals a genuine change on the part of the South African authorities and we welcome it wholeheartedly."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said: "My gut-level reaction is positive and I want to commend him. It is not all I hoped for, but it is a very considerable part of it."

Mr de Klerk said his Government wished to release Mr Mandela, the veteran ANC leader, without delay and would decide on a date soon, but more time was required.

"There are factors in the way of his immediate release, of which his personal circumstances and safety are not the least."

He also wished to terminate the state of emergency as soon as possible, but the security situation required its retention for the time being. In particular, he referred to violent conflict between rival black nationalist organizations in Natal townships, and indications that radicals were trying to disrupt the peace process.

No executions would take place until Parliament had considered proposals for broadening judicial discretion in imposing the death sentence and for automatic right of appeal. Detention under emergency regulations would be limited to six months, during which prisoners would

have the right to legal representation.

Speaking alternately in English and Afrikaans, Mr de Klerk said: "It is time for us to break out of the cycle of violence and break through to peace and reconciliation. The silent majority is yearning for this. The youth deserve it."

The table is laid for sensible leaders to begin talking about a new dispensation. The agenda is open and the overall aims to which we are aspiring should be acceptable to all reasonable South Africans.

"There is no longer any reasonable excuse for the continuation of violence. The time for talking has arrived, and whoever still makes excuses does not really wish to talk."

Some reasons being advanced for refusing to negotiate were valid, but "others are merely part of a political chess game, and while the game of chess proceeds, valuable time is being lost."

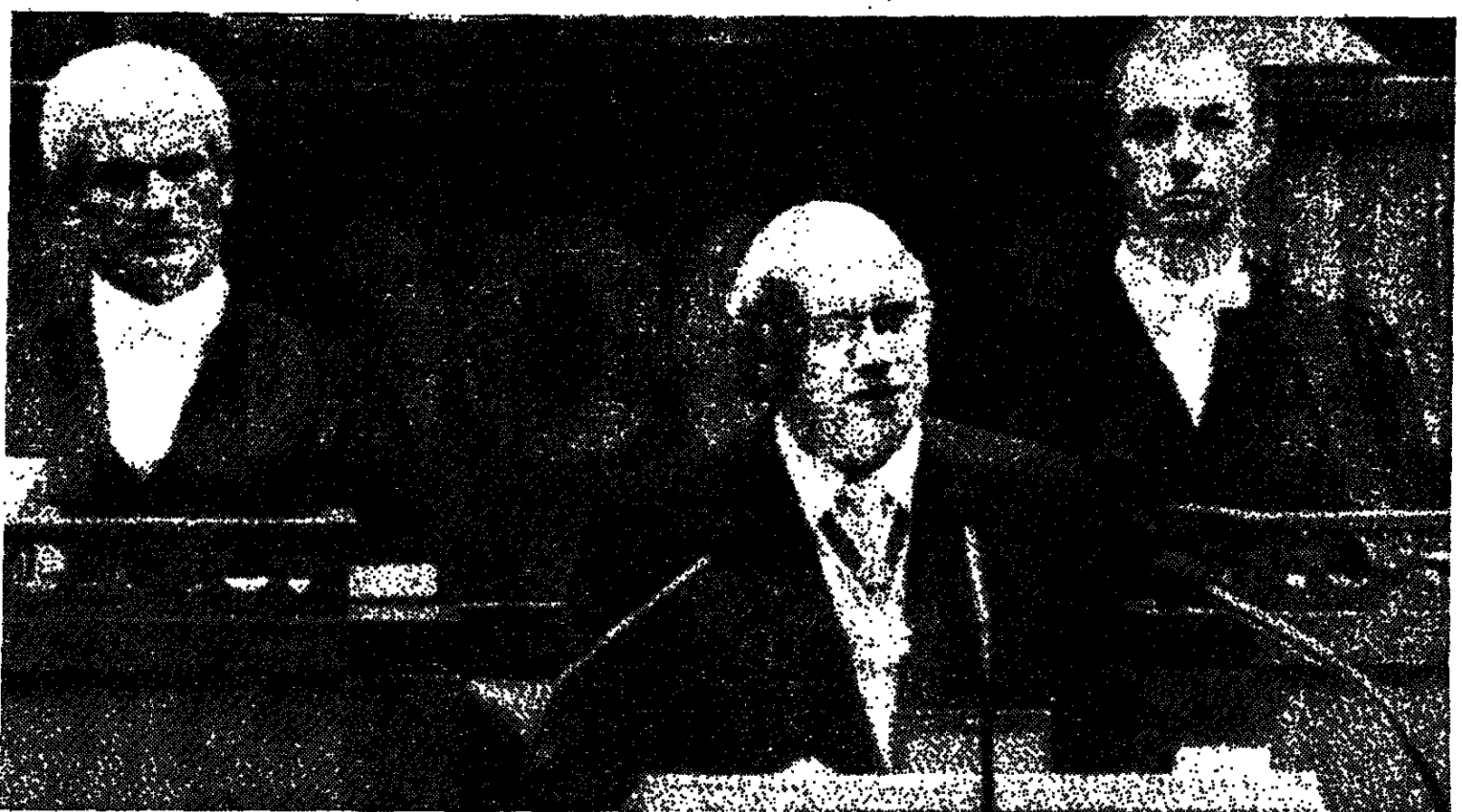
"I regard my invitation with greater conviction than ever - walk through the open door, take your place at the negotiating table. The time for negotiation has arrived."

Mr de Klerk reaffirmed his long-term goal was equal rights in every sphere, and said he had asked the Law Commission to consider democratic constitutions which safeguarded human rights. "It is neither the Government's policy nor its intention that any group, in whichever way it may be defined, shall be favoured above or in relation to any of the others."

The essence of Mr de Klerk's shock tactics was to meet the ANC halfway in its demands. While unbanning the organization, he maintained the state of emergency, and while according its members political freedom, he stopped short of an amnesty for those convicted or suspected of violent acts.

The ANC leadership in exile reacted cautiously to the speech, welcoming the steps which had been taken, but insisting that negotiations could not begin as long as the

Continued on page 7, col 3



Turning point: President de Klerk making his historic address to the South African Parliament yesterday: "It is time... to break through to peace and reconciliation."

### British policy proved right, says Thatcher

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday hailed President de Klerk's decisions to legalize the African National Congress and release Nelson Mandela as "bold and courageous" and said it showed that the British Government's anti-sanctions policy had paid off.

She invited Mr de Klerk to an early meeting with her at Chequers and said she would also invite Mr Mandela once he was freed.

She made it clear that if negotiations went well she would like to visit South Africa, though not immediately. However, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said he hoped to visit the country "before too long", possibly when Namibia declares its independence.

Mrs Thatcher undertook to try to persuade other Commonwealth leaders to relax their sanctions against Pretoria, and said Britain would

expand its academic cultural and scientific contacts with South Africa.

The Prime Minister clearly felt that after following an internationally unpopular policy for years she had been proved right.

"It means that the approach that Britain has taken in not isolating South Africa but keeping contact with her is now paying off. We believe in carrots as well as sticks."

She said the American policy of disinvestment in South Africa had been a mistake. "I think more investment would have been more constructive."

Mrs Thatcher said it was too soon to consider relaxing the mandatory sanctions agreed through the United Nations, but other measures might be dropped. Britain's commitment to the Gleneagles Agreement on sporting contacts would continue.

Mrs Thatcher's invitation to Mr de Klerk was condemned by the Anti-Apartheid Movement, although the organization welcomed the South African leader's speech.

About 400 protesters staged a lunchtime demonstration outside South Africa House, calling for Nelson Mandela's immediate release.

Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, the president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and its chairman, the Labour MP Mr Robert Hughes, issued a statement accusing the British Government of seizing an excuse to reduce pressure on the South African regime.

"This must not be allowed to happen. We deplore Mrs Thatcher's decision to invite F.W. de Klerk to London. This is not the time for carrots. Indeed, it is vital that we maintain and intensify international pressure until apartheid is destroyed."



People power: Mrs Winnie Mandela at the Cape Town rally: "We can't be happy just because the ANC has been unbanned."

**INSIDE**

**Final pieces of the puzzle**

- The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword reaches its climax today, with the publication of the full grid of this fascinating brain-teaser, and all the clues, including those published earlier in the week
- Also on page 34 are details of how to enter your solution, which could win a holiday for two in India plus £1,000 cash, or other valuable prizes

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### BA brings work for 450 to Glasgow

#### Jobs boost for west Scotland

By Kerry Gill

More than 800 jobs are to be created in the west of Scotland. British Airways announced yesterday that it is to bring work for 450 with a new Glasgow telephone sales centre and 380 posts will be created by an insurance company's expansion in Inverclyde.

The £18 million British Airways facility is intended to cover increasing business north of the border and will also provide a service for other parts of Britain. The 100-strong Glasgow sales force will be increased to 300 by next spring, with 250 more staff being employed by 1992. The airline now employs a total of about 750 in Glasgow.

The new office is due to open in September. Lord King, chairman of British Airways, said: "This move is of great importance to the airline's business development plans for the 1990s and beyond. It is also important for the continuing commercial development of Glasgow."

The project has been supported by a £1.4 million regional selective assistance grant from the Scottish Office. Yesterday, Crusader Insurance announced it was bringing 380 jobs to Inverclyde with the establishment of an office development on the edge of Greenock. It is the biggest inward investment in the Inverclyde area for more than 20 years.

The district has had severe problems over the past decade as shipbuilding declined and little new investment was attracted. The area was recently given Enterprise Zone status.

The new offices will replace Crusader's administrative and processing centres in Livingston, West Lothian, and Reigate, Surrey.

### Arrest in computer plot case

By Nick Nuttall  
Technology Correspondent

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, acting on behalf of Scotland Yard, have arrested a man in the United States in connection with a multi-million pound Aids computer blackmail plot.

The man, named as Dr Joseph Lewis Popp, a medical computer expert from Willowick, Ohio, appeared in court at Cleveland, Ohio, yesterday. He faces extradition to Britain.

Computer team, page 3

### Worst of Aids epidemic 'may be over'

By Thomson Prentice  
Science Correspondent

Only about a third as many people are likely to develop Aids in the next few years as was predicted a year ago, according to government forecasts.

The report by a Public Health Laboratory Service working party, published yesterday, offers the most optimistic prediction about the future spread of the disease yet produced.

It suggests that the worst of the epidemic among homosexuals in Britain may be over and says that Aids sufferers are living twice as long as was the case a few years ago because of improved drug treatment.

However, the report, which examines the likely spread of the disease up to the

end of 1993, warns that the changing pattern of the epidemic could mean that most new cases could be through heterosexual contact or intravenous drug abuse.

The report says that in 1990 there will be 1,300 new cases of Aids in England and Wales, and 750 deaths. In 1993 there will be between 1,175 and 4,825 new Aids cases, of whom 875-1,500 will be homosexual or bisexual men.

The latest Department of Health figures show that 2,830 people have contracted the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, of whom 1,612 have died. By the end of 1993, it is predicted that there will have been 6,380 Aids deaths, and 4,980 people with Aids.

The figures are an update on the Cox report, published at the end of 1988, which forecast that by the end of 1992 there could be up to 30,000 Aids cases and as many as 17,000 deaths.

Yesterday's report says research indicates that the spread of infection among homosexual and bisexual men dropped sharply in the mid-1980s. "The more pessimistic projections of the Cox report are no longer tenable," it says.

● Aids organizations welcomed the figures but warned against complacency in efforts to combat the spread of the disease, particularly among drug users and heterosexuals (Jill Sherman writes).

The Terrence Higgins Trust hailed the predictions as a victory for health education. "They show that safer sex and safe drug use campaigns launched in 1983 and 1984 did have a substantial effect on slowing the spread of infection."

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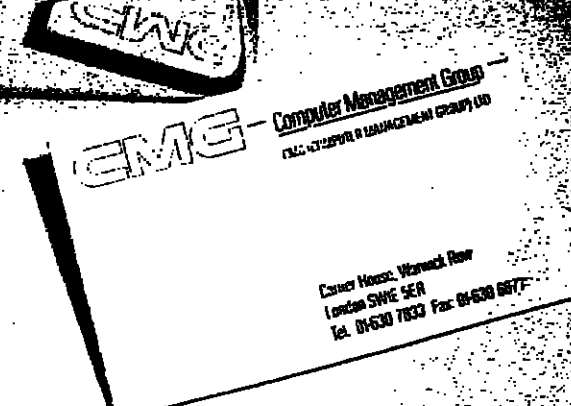
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US a...  
Technology...  
Libel  
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to Wa...  
Jailbreaker  
and lover  
get total  
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# US arrest highlights global task of Yard computer team

By Nick Nuttall,  
Technology Correspondent

The arrest in the United States of Dr Joseph Lewis Popp in connection with an alleged computer blackmail threat highlights one of the biggest investigations undertaken by the Scotland Yard's Computer Crime Unit.

After calls by worried computer users, the four-man team quickly found itself investigating an international blackmail attempt. The web of intrigue stretched from a business centre in New Bond Street, central London, to a registered company and post office box number in Panama.

Investigators became embroiled in Central American politics when attempts to trace funds being sent to the Panama

address were hampered temporarily after the US invasion of Panama.

Mr John Austen, who heads the Computer Crime Unit, said officers had been working 14-hour days since mid-December after the arrival in the mail of a computer disc purporting to offer educational information on Aids and which were later found to damage computers.

His unit, set up in 1984 with two officers, has brought prosecutions in nearly 30 cases of computer "hacking" or the introduction of a computer "virus" — a rogue programme that can interfere with computer operations.

However, Mr Austen, a former employee of a computer manufacturer who has been 23 years in the force, admitted

that there were many more cases which had fallen foul of Britain's inadequate laws covering computer misuse.

The team's most celebrated case was that of Gold and Schiffren, two freelance journalists who were accused in 1984 by British Telecom of "hacking" [breaking into] computers.

A prosecution of fraud was brought and the pair were fined £1,000. But the case was thrown out on appeal to the House of Lords and the conviction quashed.

Other less well-publicized cases have included prosecutions for hacking into university and airline systems.

"They have usually been for things like false accounting and criminal damage, when someone writes a logic bomb or time

bomb that damages the system", Mr Austen said. Some have been against former employees of companies who hold grudges. Others have been against individuals misguidedly trying to pit their wits against a computer system.

Mr Austen is convinced that despite proposed laws on computer misuse contained in a Bill sponsored by Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside, hacking and virus offences are likely to be an increasing problem.

That was partly because advanced computers are penetrating into all walks of life. "The other reason is that there is a vast amount of money now being transferred by computer systems," Mr Austen said.

In an attempt to meet the growing crime

wave, Mr Austen has begun training officers from other forces in the rudiments of computer crime.

The courses, which have been run at the Police Staff College, Bramhill, since 1986, have now achieved their initial target of having "at least one officer in every UK force with some initial training".

However, Mr Austen believes that, given the international nature of computer crime, some centralization of Britain's computer crime policemen may be needed to bring the country in line with the Continent.

Computer and legal experts believe Mr Austen's unit may be pushed to breaking point unless more resources are made available.

## Libel action against Marsh 'may be link to Warren shooting'

By David Sapsted

The shooting of Mr Frank Warren last November may have been motivated by a libel action brought by the boxing promoter against the former world champion Terry Marsh.

The disclosure was made as Mr Marsh, who is charged with attempting to murder Mr Warren, made a personal appearance in court to press for the libel case to go ahead. But an application by Mr Warren's lawyers to have the libel action postponed until the completion of criminal proceedings was granted.

Mr Justice Michael Davies ordered after an hour-long hearing that only his ruling on the application could be reported and pointed out that Mr Marsh, aged 32, intended to plead not guilty to the attempted murder charge.

The judge added: "Mr Marsh makes the point that it was suggested to him when questioned that he had a motive to commit a criminal offence against Mr Warren because of the libel which, if he lost, he stood to have a substantial financial award against him."

"If that is right, then it seems to me a good reason in itself why that question should not be thrashed out in civil proceedings before a criminal case is heard."

Mr Marsh, wearing a multi-coloured track suit, con-

ducted his own case from the front bench of Court 13. The former world light welterweight champion made a 15-minute speech from prepared notes, opposing the application made on behalf of Mr Warren — who was not in court — for the libel case not to go ahead on Monday.

The judge said it had been pointed out that if Mr Marsh won the libel case, he was likely to get a substantial order for costs against Mr Warren. "He (Marsh) submits that there is a real risk that he will not be able to recover this sum. He suggests that there is an outstanding bill of costs for a very large sum which has not yet been paid by Mr Warren."

The judge ordered that the libel case, arising out of remarks Mr Marsh made on Thames Television's *Weekend Sports Special* programme, should be postponed until the end of the criminal proceedings. For one thing, he said, if the libel case went ahead it would mean that Mr Marsh, conducting his own defence, would inevitably be involved in "a face-to-face confrontation" with Mr Warren during cross-examination.

Reluctantly, the judge said, he felt the criminal charges should be dealt with first because the plaintiff and defendant were the same in both cases and even if the civil case went ahead with reporting restricted until the

completion of the attempted murder trial, there was bound to be "speculation, gossip and leaks".

Mr Justice Davies said the libel allegation was being contested by Mr Marsh on the grounds that his remarks were true and that, anyway, Mr Warren was aware of the substance of the comments and had consented to their being broadcast. Mr Warren, the judge said, did not agree with those defences.

The judge said that after the alleged libel "an incident occurred between Mr Warren, it is said, and Mr Marsh. It is alleged by the Crown that Mr Marsh attempted to kill Mr Warren. That, of course, is a very serious charge and Mr Marsh is in custody now."

Mr Warren's counsel had argued that the libel case should be postponed because evidence given in the civil case could impinge on the criminal proceedings, and because Mr Warren was not yet fit enough to appear in court to give evidence. The judge said the medical certificate produced in court did not justify the second claim.

The judge described the fact that Mr Marsh is unlikely to stand trial before the end of this year as "a melancholy state of affairs".

Mr Henri Brandman, Mr Marsh's solicitor, said afterwards that the boxer was considering an appeal.

## Royal wedding heals family rift

JAMES GRAY



Miss Marina Ogilvy, the daughter of Princess Alexandra and Mr. Angus Ogilvy, and Mr. Paul Mowatt after their marriage at St Andrew's, Ham, near the home of the bride's parents in Richmond Park, west London, yesterday.

Miss Ogilvy, who stood 24th in line to the throne, was involved in a dispute with her parents.

Yesterday, Princess Alexandra and her husband made good their denial, expressed in a statement from St James's Palace, that they had cut off their daughter and said that they would always welcome her at home.

They were, though, the only members of the Royal Family to attend the wedding. The bride arrived in a white

Rover police car five minutes late and was greeted outside the church by her father with a kiss.

The ceremony was conducted behind closed doors by the Rev David Moore, vicar of Ham, who said that he had no qualms about according a church wedding to someone who was known to be pregnant.

Afterwards, Princess Alexandra told the waiting crowd that it had been "a very happy wedding".

## Jailbreaker and lover get total of 13 years

David McAllister, the high-security prisoner who persuaded a prison teacher to help him escape, was sentenced yesterday to a further eight years in jail.

McAllister, aged 32, who is serving 19½ years for armed robbery, arson, firearms offences and two previous escapes, was sentenced by Crimsey Crown Court to three years in prison for staging a bomb hoax and a further five years for escaping.

He also received a four-year jail term for two firearms offences to run concurrently. His accomplices in the escape, Ralph Carlin, a Glasgow car salesman who had provided him with a gun, and Pauline Hardy, a prison teacher with whom McAllister had an affair while in jail, were also imprisoned.

Hardy, an English teacher, had smuggled the gun to him in Hull Jail and staged a bomb hoax at a supermarket to allow him time to escape.

Hardy, aged 38, of Chaucer St, Hull, was sentenced to a total of five years for assisting escape, smuggling the gun, and staging the bomb hoax. Carlin, aged 34, from Gary Place, Hallglen, Falkirk, was sentenced to 2½ years for providing the gun.

Judge Barker described security at the special segregation unit at Hull Jail, from where McAllister escaped, as "appalling". He said: "The escape was carried out with great ease. They [Hardy and McAllister] walked through open doors. Phone calls were unsupervised."

Mr Paul Worsley, for the prosecution, said that McAllister had planned to escape to Australia and had told Hardy she could join him there.

During their affair they used to meet in the chapel of the prison, where Hardy had worked since 1981.

Mr Timothy Bubb, for McAllister, said that his client had wanted to escape to see his grandparents before they died and to visit his sick father in Australia.

He was recaptured five days later after an armed raid on a house in Morden, Surrey. The court was told that the escape had been McAllister's third jail-break. A former heroin addict and violent criminal he had been in and out of jail since 1973. He had been expelled from school for violent behaviour at 15.

## Judge Pickles criticized as young mother is set free

By Michael Horsnell

Judge Pickles, the outspoken circuit judge who has been censured for describing the Lord Chief Justice as "an ancient dinosaur", was yesterday at the centre of a new controversy for jailing a pregnant woman for theft last November.

He said the mother of three, who is a compulsive shop-lifter, should go to prison because "mercy had been exhausted in her case".

However, the Court of Appeal quashed her nine-month sentence yesterday on that ground that Judge Pickles had been wrong to reject out of hand a medical report. It said that Miss Wendy Bull, aged 24, could be treated successfully for her compulsion.

The appeal judges substituted a two-year probation

order on Miss Bull, on condition that she undergo psychiatric treatment at St Luke's Hospital, in Huddersfield.

After the ruling, the Labour



Judge Pickles: Dismissed medical report out of hand.

Party called for a review of the jailing of women. Mr Barry Sheerman, the home affairs spokesman, said Miss Bull, of Bailey, West Yorkshire, who is now five months pregnant,



Barry Sheerman: "Women jailed wrongly every day".

should never have been sent to prison.

"I believe this is only the tip of the iceberg as twice as many women are being sentenced to prison than one would expect from the percentage of crime committed. Judges like Judge Pickles are sentencing women every day to inappropriate prison sentences."

The ruling on Miss Bull's sentence follows a similar decision last month in the case of Miss Tracey Scott.

Miss Scott, aged 19, the mother of a four-month-old baby, was given a six-month jail sentence for theft by Judge Pickles, which was replaced on appeal by a two-year probation order amid criticism by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice.

After yesterday's hearing

Miss Bull, was said to be too upset to comment on her release.

The judges were told that Judge Pickles had not been informed that she was pregnant. Miss Bull was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court on November 24 last year after admitting four charges of theft and the breach of a two-year probation order.

Miss Bull's counsel, Mr Stephen Ashurst, told Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Hadden, that Judge Pickles had adjourned sentencing for the preparation of a psychiatric report. The report blamed her compulsive shoplifting and overeating on anxiety and depression, and recommended she could be successfully treated while

undergoing a fresh probation order.

However, Mr Ashurst said Judge Pickles "was entirely dismissive of the report. He told Miss Bull that her past experiences had led her to believe that the courts would not be firm with her."

Mr Ashurst said the judge had decided that Miss Bull's desire to stop stealing — she was frightened to go shopping alone — was bogus, and he did not think it could be treated. Mr Justice Tudor Evans described how the Miss Bull had stolen toys and clothing worth a total of £250.

He said if Judge Pickles doubted the validity of the medical report, he should have given the doctor an opportunity to give evidence so that he could be questioned on its contents.

## Suspicion of affair led to manslaughter

By a Staff Reporter

A romantic liaison between a horse breeder and a young woman at the Glenaeles Place Park Phillips Equestrian Centre in Scotland ended with the man being shot dead by the divorcee with whom he was living.

Patricia Turner, aged 36, learned of her lover's attachment with the young woman after listening to a telephone conversation. Yesterday she was sent to prison for five years by the High Court in Edinburgh after pleading guilty to culpable homicide.

The court heard that Turner suspected that Mr James Stocks, a 58-year-old horse and dog breeder, had begun an affair with the younger woman, who was connected to the equestrian centre, which was opened near the five-star hotel in June 1988.

Mr Stocks denied that he was involved with the 24-year-old woman, but Turner, who worked as a groom, overheard a telephone conversation between him and a friend in which he said: "It is a terrible thing me trying to keep these young women off me. I am having an awful job as there is one lassie desperate to get in, and I can't get the other one out."

"Yes, Pat is still on the scene. Both of them are good

workers in the yard, but if you forget about that, which one would you have?"

Turner, who believed she was expecting Mr Stocks's child at the time, realized she could no longer trust him. She confronted him, but he walked out of the back door.

She picked up a 4.10 shot-gun which she kept behind the door of her home at Balbeggie House, near Kirkcaldy, Fife, and fired it into the darkness, hitting her lover in the back of the head from a range of six feet. He was dead on arrival at hospital.

Turner was originally charged with murder, but the charge was later reduced to culpable homicide.

Mr Alex Pollock, for the prosecution, said: "The Crown accepts that the shooting was not premeditated."

Mr Charles Boag-Thomson, QC, for the defence, said that Turner did not know the gun was loaded, and was carrying it at hip level when she fired into the gloom.

"She was completely devastated at the realization that someone who meant so much to her could lie in such a way. At that stage her reasoning snapped. She cannot accept that she caused the death of the man she loved," he told the court.

## Dental school asks for evidence of racial bias

By Kerry Gill

Claims of racial discrimination at Glasgow University's dental school will be urgently investigated if evidence supporting the allegations is produced, the university authorities said yesterday.

In a statement following student claims of racism at the school, the university said it regarded the allegations "in the gravest terms".

Students at the dental school, which is regarded as a centre of excellence, have alleged that black students have been marked down in

end-of-term examinations. However, a full inquiry into the matter has been hindered by the refusal of the students making the claims to reveal their identities to the authorities.

The controversy began some weeks ago when four students approached their adviser of studies with claims of racism within the department. While they agreed that the matter should be referred to the dean of the faculty of medicine, they were not prepared to reveal their identities

to him. The university says it cannot investigate the claims unless formal statements are made by the students.

In one instance, students claim that 17 out of 18 of those who failed the degree examination last June were black. The university, however, says that 17 students failed the exam that it believes to be in question, of whom 10 were non-Caucasian.

Another allegation is that seven of the 18 who failed were allowed to resit their examinations. Of the seven, it

was said that six students were black, and one white, but only the white passed.

The university says that 17 were allowed to resit their examinations. Five failed again, four of them black. The five achieved only G-grades, which, according to the authorities, "indicates a catastrophic failure".

A spokesman for the university said yesterday: "We regret that any individual, who may have information bearing on this issue has not felt able to come forward to

the university before now." He urged the students to do so immediately.

He added: "While the university regards it as important to ensure that there is no discrimination against students on any grounds, it is equally important that such allegations against staff are substantiated or withdrawn."

The authorities say they are now concerned that publicity may increase the reluctance of students involved to use the correct channels to make a complaint.

## Patients urged to query bills

By David Sapsted

More instances of massive overcharging by private hospitals came to light yesterday, including an admission by the country's best-known clinic that it made a £750 error on an £835 bill for drugs.

Mr Julian Stainton, head of one of the country's largest medical insurance firms, the Western Provident Association (WPA), whose survey earlier this week found cottons swabs being charged at £168 and aspirins at £2 each, said that patients checked by the size of bills should question them.

A Times reader, Mr Alick Benham, from Bath, who

discovered that £165 charged for medical supplies by a clinic for tests on his wife should actually have been £8, said: "It needs some effort by people to challenge and, if necessary, publicize the charges being made. They should write to their MPs and to The Times."

"Market forces do not seem adequate to control these scoundrels, who seem to have found a marvellous form of creative accounting. Unfortunately, it is the public that ends up paying, in the form of insurance premiums increasing 20 per cent a year."

Medical insurers fear that the burgeoning numbers of

private clinics are keeping down room costs by marking up the price of "invisibles", especially drugs and medical supplies.

Documents obtained by The Times show that in one case at the London Clinic last November, a patient who stayed three nights was charged a total of £2,037, including £255 a night for a room and £835 for "theatre drugs, etc."

WPA queried the bill and asked for a breakdown of the theatre drugs components. Last month the clinic replied: "We inadvertently charged £835 instead of £83 for theatre drugs."

### NEXT WEEK



### The Mandela letters

● "I've plans, wishes and hopes. I dream and build castles. But one has to be realistic. We're mere individuals in a society run by powerful institutions with its conventions, norms, morals, ideals and attitudes."

● When he was imprisoned in South Africa 28 years ago, Nelson Mandela left behind a young wife with two small daughters, and children by his first marriage. From behind bars he guided, cajoled and encouraged his family in a copious and compelling correspondence.

● On Monday, The Times publishes extracts from Mandela's letters to his family, which reveal a private side to a very public man

### From a roar to a whimper



What is the story behind Britain's record trade deficit of £20.3 million? Why have industries in which this country led the world 20 years ago slipped from our grasp?

● On Monday The Times begins an important series by Tom Bower on the decline of British industry

### PORTFOLIO

### Money to buy car

There were two winners of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition.

Mr Anthony Brindley, of Swansea, West Glamorgan, said he will use his £2,000 share to buy a car.

"I have been doing Portfolio since it started and filled in my entry religiously every day. I had convinced myself I had to win sometime," he said.

The other winner was Mrs Gladys Bates, of Northolt, west London.

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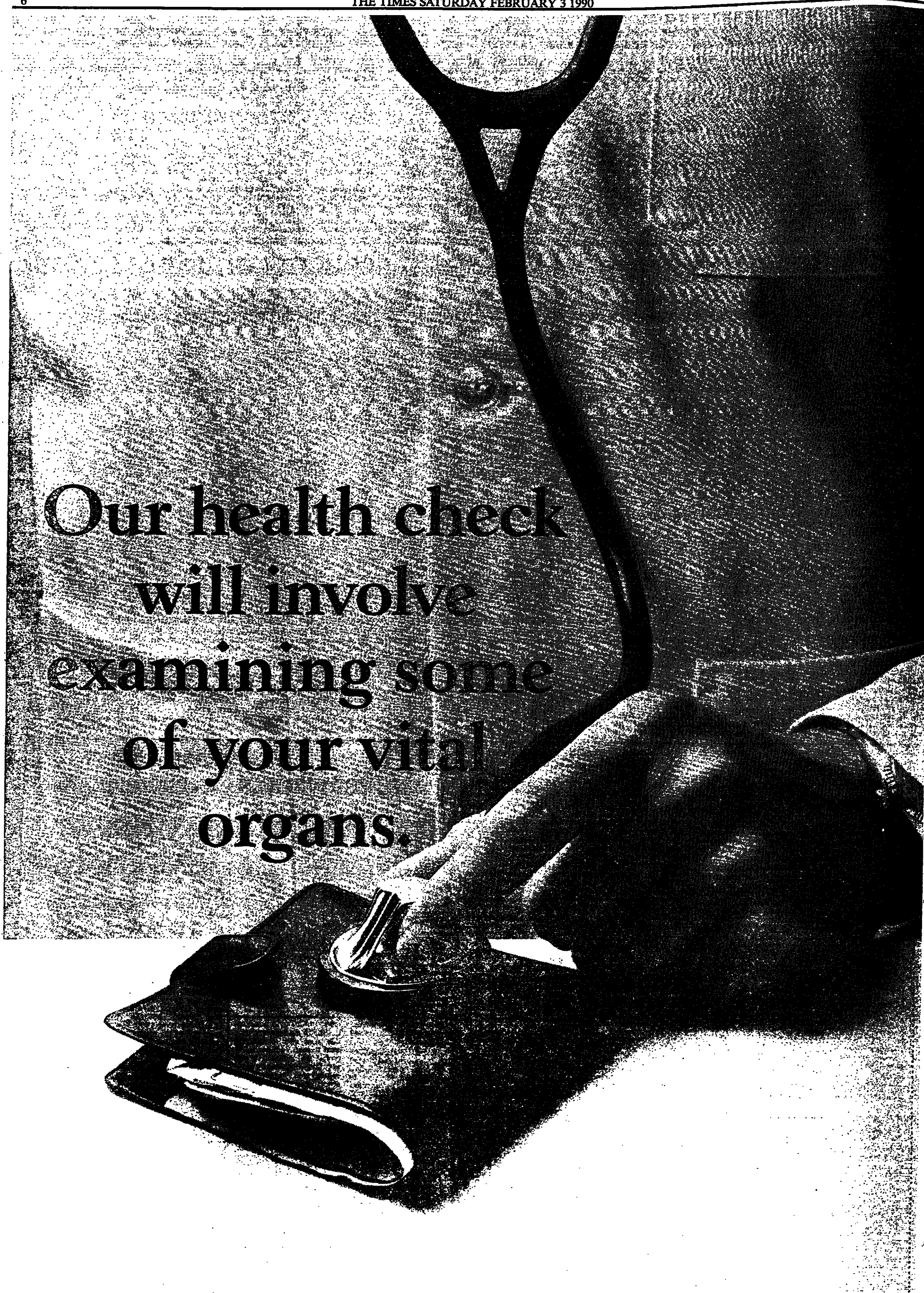












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An Allied Dunbar consultant will be happy to make a house call or an office call, whichever's convenient to you. After all, everyone's finances deserve intensive care.

Please send me WITHOUT OBLIGATION: a free copy of your 28-page booklet "Arranging Your Affairs" together with details of your free Financial Health Check. Pst to: S.A. Hunt, Allied Dunbar, FREEPOST, Swindon SN1 1XZ (no stamp needed) or telephone 0800 010500 free at any time.

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# Soviet party faces up to intimations of mortality

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party meets in Moscow on Monday under the shadow of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and its increasingly open rejection even here.

Inside the party there is a sense that something must be done to prevent further decline in its authority, but little agreement on what.

This will be the second full meeting of the Central Committee in as many months, but even in that short time the mood of the Soviet Communist Party has changed.

The upheaval in Romania, the official recognition that German reunification is inevitable, and the deployment of the Army to quell what officially is called an anti-communist uprising in the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, have all given the Soviet party hitherto unsuspected intimations of mortality.

Three distinct strands of opinion about the party's future can be detected.

The first, right-wing and conservative — at least in the Soviet political lexicon — argues that the problem stems from the readiness of the party leadership to make concessions which weaken communism. This group wants a return to former ways.

A second group, President Gorbachev's supporters in the main, regards the party as being basically on the right track but hindered by backward thinking and outdated political structures. It sees a continuing, if modified, role for the party in Soviet life facilitated by some judicious personnel changes and sanctioned by a re-evaluation of Lenin that would remove some of the ideological obstacles to economic reform.

The third view would be represented by the Democratic Platform, the newly founded group which was described earlier this week by an opponent as an attempt to introduce non-Leninist socialism into the Soviet Union. This group has attracted the support of those who believe something far more radical, including direct elections for all party posts and an end to

the party's automatic right to power, is required to save it. Events in the Transcaucasus and the emptiness of shops across the country have seemed to support the allegations of conservatives that perestroika has brought political and economic chaos.

On Thursday the reformist Moscow News published a damning assessment of the policies of Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Politburo member most closely identified with the conservative wing of the party, accusing him of being associated with the "unhealthy elements of socialism" that had helped bring

the congress in October. Now, after the military assault on Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, and outbreaks of unrest in other parts of the country, ethnic tensions are likely to be discussed in a more general manner than had been planned.

Where the future of the party is concerned, however, it is the draft congress documents that emerge from the plenum that will show which wing of the party has prevailed.

The party programme, which sets out future goals, had its last thorough revision as recently as 1985, when the

form argue that unless the system of indirect elections is replaced by direct elections in all regional party organisations there is no possibility that new blood will be brought in. The heirs of Brezhnev, however, have every intention in preserving the present system because their jobs and power depend on it.

When such sensitive questions have been discussed in the past, a compromise has usually been reached. This time, with the emergence of the Democratic Platform and the warnings from Eastern Europe, many party officials fear for its future, and patience is short.

The Gorbachev supporters might be satisfied with the prospect, broached this week in *Pravda*, of separating the state presidency from the party leadership again — the two functions have been separated when each of the last four Soviet leaders came to power — and making the former more powerful.

Separation would allow Mr Gorbachev to become a new-style President late in the year and leave the new party leadership to bargain with unofficial opposition groups for power.

Such a solution would leave the conservatives and the radicals to fight for the leadership of a party which could rapidly become as irrelevant in the Soviet Union as it already has elsewhere.

Along with the ideological debate, the past week has seen reference to new pockets of unrest throughout the Soviet Union. It has also seen the first *en bloc* resignation of a regional party committee — in Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad), where party members and demonstrators pushed through a vote of no confidence in the leadership — and the expulsion from the Leningrad party of Mr Oleg Solov'yov, the former regional secretary, whose "crime" was to buy a foreign car.

Such isolated demonstrations of principle, however, are unlikely to save a party which is now openly blamed for the economic and political disarray in which the Soviet Union finds itself.



President Gorbachev. May want less power for party, communism "to the point of collapse".



Mr Ligachov. Associated with 'unhealthy elements'. over-optimism of the Khrushchev programme was finally discarded.

Two days earlier a rumour had circulated that President Gorbachev was considering resignation from the party leadership. The subsequent panic on Western stock markets, and the immediate reaction from American politicians, allowed Gorbachev supporters to demonstrate how essential it was for him to remain in power.

The rumour also generated speculation that Mr Gorbachev, or his supporters, were trying to increase the power of the presidency with respect to the party.

Originally the plenum had been expected to discuss the decision of the Lithuanian Communist Party to split from the central Soviet party, and new party rules and a new programme to be presented to

## Peace patrol in Armenia



An Armenian woman, passing by the armoured might of the Soviet Union, continues knitting as she walks through the Armenian village of Tekh, where troops and tanks are deployed to halt ethnic violence between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. Mr Tofik Gasymov, a senior member of the Azerbaijani Popular Front, said yesterday that Lieutenant-General Vladimir

Dubynskiy, the military commandant of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, had promised the Front that he would pass on to Moscow its calls for a timetable on removing troops from the city (Reuters reports from Baku). The Front, which says its aim is genuine parliamentary democracy, has rejected demands by extreme factions for secession from the Soviet Union.

## Experts ready to take over in Sofia

From Ernest Beck, Sofia

Bulgaria entered an uncertain but hopeful political era yesterday with the resignation of the Communist Government, the election of a new Communist Party leadership, and the first thorough purge of hardline party members since Mr Todor Zhivkov, the former leader, was toppled in November.

It is hoped that the Government's resignation will lead to the formation of a caretaker administration made up largely of independent experts, specialists and professionals, many from the academic community. Such an administration, it is hoped, would foster stability in the run-up to free multi-party elections scheduled for May.

New opposition groups have agreed in principle to what is being called a "national consensus" Government but ruled out an interim coalition with the Communists as a ploy to make them take responsibility for the country's political and economic plight.

The proposal will be put to the round-table talks which resume next week. A list of possible candidates is expected to be compiled, with the Communists taking one or two ministries.

The resignation follows sharp criticism of Mr Georgi Atanasov, the Prime Minister, who came under attack at the emergency meeting of the Communist Party for doing nothing to stop the country's slide to economic ruin.

As the Government resigned, delegates to the congress continued a protracted secret session to choose a new party leadership. This is believed to have turned into a blood-letting of the last remnants of the Zhivkov clique by the emerging reformers.

Mr Alexander Lilov, a philosopher, aged 56, was unanimously elected party chairman, while Mr Petur Mladenov, the outgoing General Secretary who ousted Mr Zhivkov, stepped aside in hopes of becoming President of the republic.

## Yugoslavia's ethnic powder keg

### Serbs demand Kosovo crusade

From Philip Jacobson, Pristina

Angry and alarmed after a week of violence in Kosovo, several thousand Serbs gathered here yesterday to demand tougher action by the authorities against Albanian "terrorists". At an hour-long, often emotional, meeting they complained that Albanian demonstrators involved in clashes with police are intent on driving the Serbian minority out of the province.

With President Djindjic of Yugoslavia arriving here yesterday for talks on the deteriorating situation, speakers at the meeting demanded a firmer hand from the top.

As the crowd assembled — elegant women in fur coats rubbing shoulders with farmers in muddy boots — several people brandished portraits of Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the charismatic Serbian leader.

For Kosovo's 200,000

Serbs, outnumbered almost 10-to-one by ethnic Albanians, "Slobo's" rousing brand of nationalism is music to the ears. They warmly applauded his decision to rush heavily armed Serb riot police into Kosovo — which comes under Serbian control — when the present wave of strikes and protests began, and the ferocity with which these squads have been going into action against Albanian crowds meets with widespread approval from a community that feels at risk.

Mr Djindjic, by contrast, is widely regarded by Serbs here as a dangerously liberal figure, a Slovene with the usual antipathy towards the country's largest ethnic group. When yesterday's meeting was ending one young woman with a "Slobo" button in her lapel delivered an impassioned discourse about the need for what Mr Milosevic has described as a crusade "to avenge humiliations long imposed on Serbia".

For the Albanian majority, who rightly regard themselves as the Serbs' first target, phrases like this are to be taken with the utmost seriousness. The brutal efficiency with which Mr Milosevic disposed of Mr Adem Vllasi, the former leader of the



Kosovo Communist Party, as soon as he became an obstacle two years ago, underlines their fear of Serbian domination.

A popular figure of Albanian origin, Mr Vllasi, aged 42, and 14 others are being tried for "counter-revolutionary activities", and could face the death sentence if convicted.

The court is sitting in Titova Mitrovica, a grimy industrial city about 25 miles from Pristina. It was the scene of violent protests after the arrests, and now the bleak streets are under heavy police control, with young men being shoved against the wall for body checks.

Lawyers for Mr Vllasi have denounced the trial as a political show. They have requested that the closed hearings be surrounded by a mob outside Serbia, but have no expectation of success.

## Man in the News: Petre Roman

### Trusted democrat casts his spell

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

As concern mounts at home and abroad about the communist leanings of Romania's provisional leaders, Mr Petre Roman, the charismatic Prime Minister, has so far preserved his reputation as a democrat, despite being from a family with deep communist traditions.

A former engineering professor with matinee idol looks, the youthful Mr Roman has rapidly emerged as both the main troubleshooter for the National Salvation Front, and its most acceptable international face.

It was no coincidence that he was dispatched on Monday to stage the dramatic evacuation of Mr Corneliu Coposu, the veteran opposition leader, after his party headquarters were surrounded by a mob threatening his life. Twice Mr Roman addressed the crowd

from a first-floor balcony, succeeding in defusing the situation before he and Mr Coposu were driven away in armoured personnel carriers.

Two days later Mr Roman was visiting workers in the industrial town of Brasov, scene of the first unsuccessful uprising against Ceausescu in 1987. An aide who travelled with him said of the crowd reception: "I have not seen anything like it since film of the first Beatles tour of America. Women, particularly, came up and just asked if they could touch his coat."

Mr Valter Roman, the Prime Minister's father, was a pre-war member of Romania's then tiny Communist Party who fought against the fascists in the Spanish Civil War.

He served in the Comintern in Moscow in the Second

World War, but later fell into disfavour with the Stalinist leadership of the party in Bucharest as a potential "Titoist".

Mr Roman senior, a descendant of an old rabbinical family from Transylvania, was deprived of his general's rank and spent some years as a librarian before his rehabilitation, when he took over a publishing house. His Spanish wife, Hortensia, was the mother of Mr Petre Roman and his sister, Carmen.

Despite his father's period in disgrace, Mr Petre Roman was very much part of the party's nomenclature, or elite.

He was one of the minority of Romanians permitted to study abroad at the University of Toulouse, and speaks fluent French and Spanish.

He is married to a radio broadcaster who is the daughter of a former Romanian

ambassador to Switzerland and they have one daughter.

In his youth, Mr Roman was described by acquaintances as having been "close, even very close", to Zola Ceausescu, the disgraced daughter of the late dictator who is now under arrest, but even this is not widely held against him. He claimed that he became a Communist Party member only to secure his engineering professorship at Bucharest's Polytechnic University.

"There were about four million members of the party. It is completely unacceptable to say that all were supporters of Ceausescu," the Prime Minister said. He tore up his own party card on December 19 when he heard that demonstrators had been shot down in cold blood.

## East Germany 'risks civil war' if hopes of a better life are thwarted

From Ian Murray, Bonn



Herr Haussmann: New line of credit ready next week.

There is a danger of civil war in East Germany by August or September if the people's hopes for a better life are not quickly fulfilled, Herr Rudolf Stadermann, president of the new East German Business Federation, said here yesterday.

He issued his warning after meeting Herr Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economics Minister, who promised that negotiations on a new credit programme should be completed next week.

It appears Herr Stadermann's warning is being taken seriously. Although Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, has

made it plain he is not prepared to discuss plans for union drawn up by Herr Hans-Martin Haussmann, the East German Prime Minister, until after the East German poll on March 18, there is now an urgency in the economic measures being proposed to help put East Germany on its feet.

Herr Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, said yesterday that he saw no reason why the strong Deutschmark could not quickly be made the official currency in East Germany. The fact that the East German mark is only worth about one-twentieth of a Deutschmark at present black market rates is one of the main problems.

Herr Waigel is ready to move rapidly to currency union provided the East Ger-

man economy is opened up to free-market investment, competition and fair taxation.

In making this offer, he preempted a demand yesterday for the opposition Social Democrats to make the Deutschmark to be made the common currency of both countries by next year. Whichever West German Government is in power next year, therefore, the principle of early currency union already seems to have been accepted.

West German private enterprise is starting to move east. Figures this week show that there are some 3,000 West German companies ready to take advantage of a new East German law allowing foreign investment, among them steelworks, breweries and car

manufacturers. The main West German financial newspaper, *Handelsblatt*, now runs a daily block of announcements from East German companies seeking partners in the West.

The newspaper has also published a booklet of these offers, supplies of which have been exhausted after only a week.

The indications, therefore, are that there is still an entrepreneurial spirit in East Germany after 40 years of communism. Nevertheless, the Social Democrats are still making all the running for the March 18 elections, with every sign now that they will be able to head the new Government.

This would leave Herr Kohl negotiating with a party that

has been helped to power by his main domestic opponents.

He is therefore anxious to bring a recovery programme into operation quickly to pre-empt the Social Democrats in the West from benefiting too much in the general election campaign here in December.

Herr Kohl has begun to attack the Social Democrats for jumping on the bandwagon of reunification after years of publicly opposing it and of forging links with the communists in East Berlin.

The popularity, on both sides of the border, of Herr Willy Brandt, the former Chancellor who is now president of the West German Social Democrats, is just one factor in giving his party a distinct advantage as the cam-

paign begins in the East. Despite the promise of change in East Germany, the unending flow of refugees across the border continues at a rate of nearly 2,000 a day. Government figures yesterday showed that 58,000 crossed in January, while East Germany stated that 12.5 million of its 16 million population have so far visited the West on exit visas.

The idea of reunification is now more popular in the East than in the West, according to a poll taken on both sides of the border last week by the Wilk Institute. It showed that 89 per cent of East Germans now wanted a united Germany, compared with 81 per cent in the West. This is the first such poll result and it

underlines how East Germans now look to the West for financial benefits while West Germans are growing apprehensive about the cost of setting East Germany's economy to rights.

BOINN: The two Germanies are moving so fast towards unification that the phased plans proposed by both countries could soon be overtaken by events, a senior West German official said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Herr Horst Teltschik, Herr Kohl's foreign policy adviser, said the pace could quicken after the formation of a new Government chosen in East Germany's first free elections on March 18.

Gorbachev's gaffe, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

## An overnight success after 100 years in the industry

Duncan LeFevre, Managing Director of Stannah Lifts Ltd, with his highly skilled team of managers and workers have taken just five years to become what they believe to be market leaders in hydraulic passenger lifts having been market leaders for some time.

Explains Duncan, "Many of our orders are placed via specifiers and we have found that many potential clients who are not

architects may have heard of our stairlifts but have not known that we are one of the major forces in the lift industry."

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Personal service with top quality is where they come in. Duncan's team can be contacted at Stannah Lifts Ltd on (0264) 332765 Dept. KGT.

## Village for outcasts gives refuge to ailing Honecker

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

A statue of Christ, arms outstretched, is the first sight that greets the visitor on the way into the hamlet of Lobetal outside East Berlin. Underneath is the message "Come unto me all you who are weary and I will give you rest".

The village, traditionally a refuge for society's outcasts, is now home to an old, sick and lonely man preparing to face the wrath of the country he once dominated. Herr Erich Honecker, the former leader,

together with his wife, has been offered sanctuary here to await trial for treason and corruption.

Herr Uwe Holmer, the parish priest and an affable family man in his forties, now shares his home in the village with Herr and Frau Honecker who have been evicted from their luxury home in the exclusive compound of Wandlitz just a few miles away.

Herr Honecker, who left hospital earlier this week after an operation for cancer of the kidney, was taken straight to prison but was released

by a court which deemed him unfit to survive the six-week stay there before his trial.

Founded in 1905 as a charitable community to care for the deprived, sick or disturbed misfits from the nearby Berlin metropolis, Lobetal — its name, culled from the Old Testament, means the Valley of Praise — now has 500 inhabitants.

Herr Holmer was approached by the authorities after Herr Honecker's arrest last year when they despaired of finding a community where he would be safe. The priest is

appalled by the desire for revenge in East Germany directed at the former leader: "The same people who once cheered him now deny him a home," he says. "How can we build a new and better society with this hatred within us?"

He and his wife have already been the target of hate mail and abuse for opening their home to the couple.

Herr Honecker, he says, is recovering well from his operation, but spends most of his time in bed reading and writing his diary.

"He is looking forward to the trial,

because he has not yet had a chance to tell his version of events. Yes, I think that he regrets a lot. He told me that he has been isolated from his own country for many years."

The couple eat with the Holmers but Frau Honecker has not yet ventured into the village.

Herr Holmer has turned down the Government's offer of security guards to protect his home from West German photographers and vengeful citizens. Instead burly villagers stand at the front door, turning away onlookers politely.



# Angola claims vital victory over Unita in fierce fighting

Luanda (AP) — Angolan government forces have captured the strategic Mavinga airstrip in south-east Angola after heavy fighting with Unita rebels, a senior military source claimed yesterday.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mavinga fell on Thursday after heavy air force bombardment and fighting that claimed "thousands of casualties" on both sides.

Two military columns had consolidated positions in "all the area of Mavinga", including the airstrip.

Unita officials in Portugal reported heavy fighting overnight in the region but denied that the town had fallen. They said that early yesterday government troops were still 20 miles from Mavinga.

Mavinga is considered a key strategic point for control of south-east Angola, and vital in any government plans to attack the rebels' stronghold at Jamba, 120 miles south.

Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, who cut short a

five-nation European tour on Tuesday to return to Angola, ordered all his forces on alert yesterday and to resume full-scale operations.

According to Unita's Black Cockerel radio station, monitored in Luanda, Dr Savimbi said his call for an "all-out attack" without any consideration, was in reaction to the Government's heavy shelling of Mavinga.

Mr Norberto de Castro, spokesman for Unita in Lisbon, confirmed on Thursday that government troops had crossed the Lomba river, 12 miles north of Mavinga.

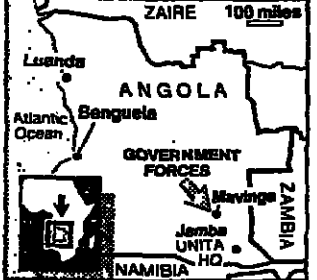
A Western diplomat who

follows the 15-year-old conflict from Lisbon said government forces were about half a mile from Mavinga on Thursday. But the diplomat added that government troops were short of supplies and would not necessarily launch an immediate attack on Jamba.

An estimated 10,000 government troops began an offensive against Mavinga late in December from Cuivo Cuanavale, about 95 miles to the north-west.

Western diplomats contacted in Luanda said that the Government could use Mavinga's fall to strengthen its position before re-opening ceasefire bargaining with the rebels.

Diplomats from the United States, the Soviet Union, Portugal and a number of African states have recently stepped up efforts to bring both sides back to the negotiating table. A ceasefire agreement sealed with a handshake between Dr Savimbi and President dos Santos of Angola last June broke down within days.



# Tension grows between India and Pakistan

Indian women protesting outside Pakistan's High Commission in Delhi yesterday against alleged interference by Miss Benazir Bhutto's Government in the affairs of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In Pakistan, meanwhile, there are indications that tension is increasing between India and Pakistan (Zahid Hussain writes from Islamabad). General Aslam Beg, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, met key corps commanders a few days ago to review the situation on the border with India.

Reports are also reaching Islamabad that more than 100 refugees have fled to the Pakistani-controlled areas. The reports say the refugees started trickling into Azad (Free) Kashmir last week after the Indian crackdown against separatists in the state.

Among those who managed to cross the heavily guarded mountainous border region were political activists who had been forced to flee because of fear of arrest and persecution.

Pakistani authorities say that the number of refugees entering Azad Kashmir is not yet alarming, but the situation could get worse if the continued crackdown in the Indian state leads to a larger influx of refugees after the winter season.



# New York panhandlers benefit from a generous judge

From Charles Bremner, New York

The first rule of life in New York has always been... get a good lawyer. That it is an adage for rich and poor alike has been demonstrated by Mr Joe Walley, a beggar who took on the New York subway system, securing his place in legal history and causing citizens to marvel once again at the ways of their metropolis.

Mr Walley is one of the army of homeless "panhandlers" who haunt the public places of the Big Apple. Numbering thousands and dominated by mental misfits and drug or alcohol addicts, the panhandlers have lately added to the menace of the underground railway by plying their trade aggressively in the trains and stations.

Last November the Metropolitan Transit Authority ordered its police to "reclaim the system" for the passengers and throw out the

beggers. But the authority reckoned without Mr Walley. He hired Mr Douglas Lasdon, a civil rights lawyer, and protested to the federal court that it was seeking to deprive him of his right to free speech. Last week Judge Leonard Sand ruled in his favour and struck down all attempts by New York City to ban begging, saying: "While often disturbing and sometimes alarmingly graphic, begging is... informative and persuasive speech."

While Mr Walley has enjoyed the fruits of celebrity — watching himself on a television set bought with the proceeds of his trade — Judge Sand has been treated to a wave of outrage. Mr Ed Koch, the former mayor whose departure from City Hall in December seems only to have amplified his presence, called the ruling crazy but all too familiar. Two years ago a court

cancelled an attempt by Mr Koch to have deranged vagrants taken to mental hospitals.

The New York Times argued that passengers suffered enough without having to contend with "wild-eyed vagrants who just might be loony enough to push someone in front of a train". Applying the letter of the law, the port authority has now begun handing out leaflets in its bus terminals — another begging Mecca — informing vagrants of their First Amendment rights. "If it wasn't so awful, it would be amusing," said Mr Stephen Berger, the authority director. The begging judgment has also raised doubts over a city plan to impose a ban on "boom cars" — those fitted with high-powered stereos turned up at full volume.

With public frustration about beggars running high, it was no

surprise when a subway passenger vented his rage by beating a beggar to death. Mr Rodney Sumter, an unemployed plumber, was travelling with his three-year-old son when he was struck by a deranged panhandler. He hit back, knocking the man to the ground, and carried on beating him there. The police say he used excessive force and have charged him with manslaughter, but a whole team of lawyers have leaped to his defence.

The begging fiasco has not helped Mr David Dinkins, the new Mayor and the city's first black chief executive. After promising to be "the toughest mayor on crime this city has ever seen", he has spent his first month grappling with fiscal reality. With the city facing a possible repeat of its 1970s bankruptcy, he has been forced to abandon his election pledge to "put

a cop on every subway train".

His plight has prompted a little gloating from his defeated rival and fellow lawyer, Mr Koch.

Rivalling Mr Walley's lawyer in resourcefulness has been Mr Bruce Cutler, the barrister for New York's best-loved underworld celebrity, Mr John Gotti, the alleged Mafia godfather. Mr Gotti, who has managed to evade conviction for years, is charged with ordering the "kneecapping" of a union boss. This time the "Feds" were confident of a conviction that could put the dapper don away for life because they have a tape recording in which he is heard ordering an underling to "bust up" the victim just before the shooting.

Sheer prosecutorial fantasy, Mr Cutler roared at the jury on prime-time news (the trial is televised). When they heard Mr Gotti say

"bust him up", what he was really saying was "bust 'em up", a phrase that referred to his desire to restructure the management of his organization.

The prosecutors drew a little satisfaction, however, because Mr Cutler was tacitly admitting what Mr Gotti has always denied — that he runs the Gambino family organization.

Lawyers played only a peripheral role in New York's other current drama — a row involving Governor Mario Cuomo and a jailed Catholic bishop, Mr Cuomo, a Catholic who made his name as a lawyer for the dispossessed, was publicly warned by Auxiliary Bishop Austin Vaughan that he would be sent "straight to Hell" for advocating abortion. The bishop is serving a 10-day sentence for taking part in an abortion protest.

## Letter from Brussels

# Lobbyists invade bright new world

As a throwaway line it was hard to beat. A top-flight member of one of Washington's most prestigious law firms was explaining why the senior partner — President Carter's former legal counsel — could not attend the formal opening of the firm's new Brussels office. "I'm sorry Lloyd Cutler can't be here. He's had to go off to help write a new constitution for Czechoslovakia."

Even without him, the arrival of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering in Brussels was an event of note: an impressive number of European Commission officials turned out for the reception, partly in recognition of the clout the firm already commands in Washington (and presumably in Czechoslovakia), partly to prepare themselves for the onslaught of high-powered transatlantic lobbying.

Brussels now runs second only to Washington as a happy hunting-ground for lawyers, especially Americans. There are more than a dozen American firms here, most of them recent arrivals, and at least another dozen are considering establishing a presence.

The reason, of course, is 1992, with its 278 assorted rules and regulations to be implemented, drafted or discussed. In the run-up to the Single Market, American firms want to see that their interests are not harmed. How better to do so than to use the old-fashioned technique of asking lawyers and consultants with knowledge, panache and connections to track down the relevant Eurocrat and apply some courteous arm-twisting at any one of a thousand-plus restaurants in the Belgian capital.

It works very well. The European Commission is naively transparent: even Mr Jacques Delors, its stern and principled President, was complaining the other day that he reads more about what his fellow commissioners are up to in the press than he ever finds out from them.

Most EC officials actually welcome the lobbying and public debate: Brussels is an eternal bargaining table, and in the endless game of manoeuvring to assemble majorities, the commissioners need to be kept informed how interest groups will react.

American firms, reacting in panic at the prospect of tougher competition from Europe and regulations they could not understand, despaired of finding their way through the maze. There are more than 12,000 EC functionaries here,

and 512 MEPs who are also playing an increased role in pushing through or modifying EC legislation. So the law firms are happy, for a goodly fee, to guide them.

It is hardly in their interest to point out that, compared to the Byzantine ways of Washington, Brussels is not so very abstruse. And there are always the Japanese in waiting, determined not only to comprehend but to master the system.

With the lobbyists have also come the industrialists, all the big international companies that feel the need to be at the heart of Europe, close to its decision-making machinery.

Then there are the semi-permanent conferences: "1992 and Telecommunications", "1992 and Financial Services", "The Challenge of the Single Market", "Whither Europe", and so on. The Brussels lecture circuit is fairly predictable: a commissioner to start things off, a vision of a bright new world, some technical briefings, predictions, questions and the inevitable speculation on what will happen in Eastern Europe.

The massive influx into Brussels means that the city, already cosmopolitan, is increasingly coming to resemble a miniature United Nations. Some 50,000 foreign — predominantly West European — families are expected to arrive here during the coming year, augmenting a foreign community that already accounts for over a quarter of the city's population. House prices, rents and office charges have doubled in 10 years as Swedes, Japanese and others who wanted to be at the heart of the new Europe scramble for property. The backlash has already come from disgruntled city residents: "Brussels is not for sale", posters proclaim.

One property deal that has cheered the huge foreign press corps here and is likely to serve as an essential clearing-house for information has been the opening, at a fatal 100 pages from the Commission building, of Kitty O'Shea's Irish pub. The Guinness is like cream, the barman's brogue the softest Dublin, and the *plaid du jour* wholesome Irish fare. Its opening coincided with the Irish presidency of the EC.

But refugees from Fleet Street can also take cheer: at the other end of the block a costly scruffy pub serving good Shepherd's Pie has also opened, called appropriately the Old Hack. News desks should note the telephone number.

Michael Binyon

# Hi-tech campaigning makes a bow in Japan

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

A three-hour televised debate yesterday afternoon between the heads of Japan's five main political parties will have done nothing to diminish cynicism among the voters.

Candidate debates on the US model are a novelty in Japan, although lack of practice provides scant excuse for the polite recitation of familiar policies. Most of the heat and light came from the television studio lights.

The flatness of the debate was all the more disappointing because the election on February 18 confronts Japanese voters with controversial issues — the country's edgy relations with the US; how Japan should react to the

changes in Eastern Europe; whether to repeal an unpopular new sales tax; and whether to liberalize agricultural imports, especially rice.

Mr Toshiki Kaifu, the Prime Minister and leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was blandly eloquent as usual. Miss Takako Doi, leader of the Socialists, disagreed with almost everything, also as usual, and was typically tongue-tied on her party's lack of credible options.

Mr Kaifu said that he wanted "to create a new age in politics" (no details). He also pointed out that "the framework of the Cold War is changing, which is quite welcome for all of us". Miss Doi

will "try to make Japanese politics the politics of the people" and will aim for "a people's coalition".

This made even mild exchanges between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock look like snarling bouts of all-in wrestling.

The leaders of the centrist Democratic Socialist and Buddhist-backed Komei parties spent the afternoon wringing on their fences. The Communists, who were friendly towards Romania's late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, are taken even less seriously than usual.

But after its thrashing in upper house elections last summer, the Government is

no longer smug. The Socialists, hoping to pull off another surprise result, are also hungry for new ways to get their message across.

While wise Japanese politicians know that it pays to stay silent, many are now trying to keep their mouths shut while also projecting a voter-friendly image. Enter hi-tech electioneering.

Pick up the telephone and you can find yourself communicating with a tape recording. "Good afternoon. This is Tanaka from the Japan Socialist Party. I would like to thank you first of all for your support. Please lend me your ear for 30 seconds." The automatic-dialling machine

can make thousands of calls in an afternoon, and awkward voters cannot talk back. It costs 545,000 yen (£2,234).

Candidates who prefer looking voters in the eye are using another novelty — videos to publicize themselves during the election campaign. To background music, a narrator introduces the candidate and talks about his or her career, political views and daily activities. Professional film directors and advertising specialists add gloss to the end-product.

The candidate sends copies of the films, some of them 20 minutes long, to local supporters. Novices at the game are finding it a particularly useful way to get past the doorstep.

# Aoun barrage shatters Beirut truce

From Juan Carlos Gumsio, west Beirut



President Hrawi: Forced to remain in west Beirut.

General Michel Aoun, who once promised to make Lebanon's Christian enclave "safer than Switzerland", yesterday deployed heavy weapons against his former allies, plunging the Maronite community deeper into fratricidal conflict.

Unable to defeat Mr Samir Geagea's Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia after three days of fierce fighting, the general crashed artillery shells down on east Beirut at a rate of one a minute.

From the depths of his bunker at the presidential palace in the suburb of

Basbda, the general last night appeared to be fighting for his own survival as well as for political power and money.

The vicious inter-Christian fighting seems irrevocably to have shattered his popularity, and his ruthlessness is said to be provoking defections.

East Beirut hospitals were said last night to be running out of medicines, and civil defence officials said the overall death toll of General Aoun's campaign could easily reach 100; there are 320 names on an unofficial list of wounded.

The shelling was renewed

shortly before dawn, when the general ordered a large-scale ground offensive with rocket-launchers and howitzers on opposing positions scattered in residential parts of east Beirut, including the densely populated Ashrafieh area. Lebanese Forces' retaliation was instantaneous and brought a violent end to the overnight truce sponsored by Mr Julio Puente, the Vatican nuncio.

President Hrawi, who is backed by Syria, has been forced to remain in west Beirut, where he was last night keeping out of the limelight.

# Weary Afghans wind down war

From Christopher Thomas, Kabul

Almost a year after the last Soviet soldier headed home down the strategic Salang highway, the war in Afghanistan is spluttering and dying.

The military stalemate remains: the Kabul Government controls the cities; the Mujahidin dominate everything else. Exhausted and weary, much of rural Afghanistan is opting for peace.

In Kabul and other cities the 11-year battle has taken on a monotonous rhythm. People no longer take notice of the ceaseless thud and rumble of government rockets being fired at rebels holed up in the high, rugged mountains that surround the city.

Most days, Mujahidin rockets smash into the city. Sometimes the rebels send in a cluster bomb, which explodes in the air, scattering "baby bombs". One landed near the West German Embassy last week, smashing windows.

The BBC is Afghanistan's only ear to the world. The

Voice of America is not trusted. People tune in religiously to the Persian-language service for any hint of peace. Without independent newspapers, radio or television, there is a desperate hunger for news. Even government officials say they do not know what is going on. "Mocow and Washington control our fate," one said. "We watch and wait."

Foreigners are stopped in the street and asked if peace talks have started. People ask fearfully if the anniversary of the Soviet withdrawal — February 15 — will embolden the Mujahidin to step up their offensive. They want to know what is happening in the rest of Afghanistan, since nobody can leave Kabul, except by aircraft. People are prisoners in their own city.

President Najibullah is regarded contemptuously by everybody in Kabul, it seems, as a Soviet stooge — the man who betrayed the traditional

and fierce Afghan refusal to be dominated by foreigners. But there is a grudging new tolerance towards him, according to long-time observers, if only because people are so weary of the war to topple him.

If there is one man who exemplifies the movement away from war with the Afghan Government, it is Ahmad Shah Massoud, a guerrilla commander who has carved out a fiefdom in five provinces on the northern edge of the Hindu Kush. It is a model of what Afghanistan always used to be: a series of independent enclaves, self-governing and fiercely suspicious of outsiders.

The Government pays Massoud in cash, food and guns. In return, he does not attack government targets. His enemy is no longer the Government but other Mujahidin, particularly Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the most fundamentalist of the resistance leaders. The two are itching to settle a

personal feud. The war has created deadly rivalries that will continue for generations.

The Mujahidin's astounding failure over the past year to exploit easy military opportunities has bitterly angered and frustrated the United States. The reason doubtless lies in the inability of so many rival rebel groups to co-ordinate their actions.

Some Mujahidin have lately shown a reluctance to use their best weaponry, just in case the US cuts off supplies. Perhaps they have an eye to future battles with each other.

Kabul is a city of black markets and shortages. The best-off are government workers who receive guaranteed food rations. The hated secret police do well, too: indeed, they have their very own block of flats, while the rest of Kabul bulges at the seams with fugitives from the countryside. It is the one target people wish the Mujahidin rockets would hit.

# Siege by rebels 'goes on'

Addis Ababa (Reuters) — Sudanese rebels yesterday denied reports in Khartoum's government-controlled press that their siege of Juba and Yei had been broken.

"The allegation is an attempt by the Khartoum Government to raise the army morale that had been badly affected by the war in the south," a spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army said.

The siege was continuing "with ferocity," he said, and it was only a matter of time before both towns fell.

## Patriarch dies

Jerusalem (Reuters) — Patriarch Yeghishe Derderian, head of the Armenian Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, has died at the age of 80.

## Rites death

Granada (Reuters) — Señora Encarnación Guardia, aged 36, died from drinking huge quantities of salt after a baker tried to "exorcise the devil" from her, relatives said.

## Cook's book

Adelaide (Reuters) — A worldwide alert has been issued to booksellers and antique dealers asking them to look out for a stolen bark manuscript of notes on Captain James Cook's Pacific voyages.

## Silent Voice

Washington (Reuters) — The Voice of America, the US government radio, will stop broadcasting in six of its 43 languages on April 1 because of lack of money.

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## AFRIKANER STATESMANSHIP

Statesmanship is not a word normally associated with the men who in pursuit of the myth of apartheid have for the last four decades led South Africa down the path of internal repression and international isolation. When Mr F. W. de Klerk rose to deliver his Opening of Parliament address in Cape Town yesterday, he had no contemporary models on which to draw.

Indeed, the last time a leader of South Africa's white tribe promised to rise to the occasions of statesmanship, his only memorable gesture was an admonitory finger poked in the eye of an expectant world. Yesterday, Mr P. W. Botha's far more courageous successor held out a firm but welcoming hand to those—long imprisoned or exiled as enemies of the South African State—who must negotiate with him South Africa's emergence as a true democracy.

It is too early to know how eagerly or quickly that hand will be grasped. There are those within the African National Congress and in the internal movements who cling to the belief that "people power" will effect a simple transfer of power to the black majority without the tedium of talks. Others, recognizing a negotiating weakness in the divisions which plague the black opposition may play for time.

They will probably insist that Mr de Klerk, by not lifting the state of emergency in its entirety and by releasing only those political prisoners who have not been sentenced for acts of violence, has not met all the negotiating preconditions laid down in last year's Harare declaration. He has, however, done very much more than set the negotiating table with the cutlery demanded by the ANC and its allies.

It was a speech distinguished by a remarkable degree of candour and an absence of the glibly convoluted constitutional "solutions" so beloved by his predecessors—indeed, Mr de Klerk has referred the whole vexed question of the protection of minorities to the South African Law Commission. He has also seized much of the moral high ground once claimed by his opponents.

He has unbanned all proscribed political organizations (including the South African Communist Party). He has rolled back most of the emergency regulations and promised to end the state of emergency once peace returns, particularly to Natal, which has been torn by a bloody internecine strife between rival black

groups. He has suspended executions and reviewed South Africa's unhealthy attachment to the death penalty, and he has released all those who can justifiably be termed prisoners of conscience.

In doing all this, Mr de Klerk is clearly trying to meet two objectives systematically ignored by all his predecessors—to re-introduce the rule of law into the conduct of South African life and to introduce the principle of accountability into its politics. The burden of accountability now rests as heavily on the black opposition as it does on him.

By opening the door to the negotiating room and refusing to ban any demand from the agenda, by allowing all political organizations to express their views in free and vigorous debate, Mr de Klerk has effectively asked them to abandon the politics of street theatre and violent unrest for the serious business of mapping South Africa's future. They thus share with him the responsibility for the final lifting of the state of emergency and South Africa's peaceful transition to a free and open democracy.

This may not please the divided legions in Lusaka. With appropriate encouragement from Western leaders, however, (and given the Soviet Union's growing unwillingness to fund the "armed struggle") it is an invitation they should find increasingly hard to decline.

Mr Nelson Mandela should also find it difficult to decline his promised unconditional release. The delay in opening the gates of the Victor Verster prison was probably due as much to Mr de Klerk's unwillingness to share yesterday's spotlight as to "logistical concerns" for the prisoner's safety. If, however, Mr Mandela still wishes to negotiate the "terms" of his release, the South African Government should lose no time in issuing its now unwelcome tenant with an eviction order.

Yesterday Mr de Klerk did not merely abandon repression for free debate. He also went two-thirds of the way to granting all the ANC's preconditions. The time has thus come for Mr Mandela, his ANC colleagues and their internal supporters to go that other third to meet him in an act of reciprocal statesmanship. Equally, it is time for those who used sanctions to lever open the door to peaceful negotiations in South Africa to see to it that the door is not now slammed in Mr de Klerk's face.

## ONE FATHERLAND

Two announcements made this week dissolved the tentative pictures of a future Germany which were being sketched by many hands. Now the blueprints have to be drawn again.

President Bush's speech setting the future number of American troops in Europe at 195,000 and Prime Minister Modrow's endorsement of full reunification considerably increase the urgency with which both European politico-military alliances have to consider not just the future of the next decades but of the next few months. Western strategy for the future has to take full account of two realities which it is beyond any power to affect: the unenforceability of Western restraints against reunification if the Germans decide in favour of it, and the historic rivalry between Germany and the Soviet Union.

Herr Modrow did not simply propose reunification: he said that Germany should be militarily neutral. Since he broke this new ground immediately after a consultation with Mr Gorbachov, it can be assumed that the change has Moscow's approval or encouragement. The Soviet leader himself had set the ball rolling with his most open acceptance of reunification to date at the beginning of this week. A trade-off between reunification and neutrality will no doubt be presented by the Soviet Union as simplifying several dilemmas. In truth the offer is both dangerous and complicating.

The danger arises principally from the fact that in an ideal world several separate processes—the collapse of East Germany, arms reduction negotiations, the construction of a new security "architecture" for Europe—would march in step with each other. In this imperfect one, events in East Germany are outstripping all else.

This means that the four occupation powers face an urgent task in attempting to find some temporary arrangements which—while we wait for a more permanent pan-European settlement—do not frustrate German self-determination while easing the maximum

possible Soviet withdrawal. It is not necessarily possible for NATO simply to wait for East Germany to subside into the present alliance: the presence of Soviet forces and the risk of unrest make such a neat solution unlikely.

Herr Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, this week rehearsed a proposal also advanced by Dr Henry Kissinger: that as reunification proceeded, the territory that is now East Germany should be neutral while the NATO forces in the present West Germany remain as they are. The speech was notably short of detail but reassuring: it took as given active West German continuance in NATO.

The governing Mayor of Berlin has just been in Paris and London to promote the idea that, while civil reunification proceeds, the principles of the four-power agreement for Berlin could be extended. The advantages would be a reassuring stability for the major powers involved and a first step in the reduction of the Soviet military presence east of the Elbe. But it is open to question how this would go down with a West German electorate already chafing at the presence of outside powers, and the Soviet reaction is unknown.

The deliberations of West Germany's allies take place as a federal election campaign gathers pace and while civil authority and the skilled workforce in East Germany drain away. The intermediate schemes currently in the air all assume firm West German adhesion to NATO and outright rejection of the Modrow proposal of neutrality for an entire reunified Germany as a condition of reunification.

With an SPD victory in the federal election at the end of this year and its candidate, Herr Oskar Lafontaine, as Chancellor, that assumption could not be automatic. The British Government, while it should work to fill the gap left where a German policy should be, ought to avoid doing anything which harms the survival chances of the present CDU-FDP coalition. The Foreign Secretary, who makes a major speech in Bonn on Tuesday, faces a large and delicate task.

### Drinking and driving

From Sir Ian Lloyd, MP for Havant (Conservative)  
Sir, The MORI survey summarised in *The Times* on January 25 has produced evidence to suggest a wide divergence between the attitude towards the realities of the drunk-driving problem of the public, the Government, Parliament, and the police. It will reopen the debate on appropriate methods of dealing with the problem at a time when the Government has announced that it proposes to "encourage chief officers of police to use their powers to the full in the enforcement of the law relating to drinking and driving" (Hansard, January 24).

Parliament has not made it an offence to drink and drive. If it is dangerous, then the limit should be lowered after proper consideration of the many complex factors involved. That judgment is a matter for the House of Commons and a change of substance should not be a consequence of an instruction to chief constables to be more zealous in their enforcement of the law.

The consequences of failing a breath test at any limit are already so serious that responsible motorists have every right to employ any sensible means to ensure that they are not a danger to the public or

themselves. This calls for a reversal of the present police hostility towards the ownership or use of a private or public breath-tester, as has become common practice in Australia and California. A risk-free society is incompatible with civil liberty in the broadest sense of that term. Nor is it either practicable or desirable that the motor vehicle should ever be regarded as an appropriate instrument for the enforcement, effectively, of prohibition. Any such attempt would fail here even more abysmally than it did in the United States.

Yours sincerely,  
IAN LLOYD,  
House of Commons.

From Mrs Merle E. Corbett  
Sir, Today's results of the MORI poll for Lex Service on driving at

Learning to read

From Mrs K. R. Jemmett  
Sir, Douglas Broome's article on dyslexia (Education, January 22) evoked strong feelings of *déjà-vu* for me. As a pupil taught to read in the early 40s, I do not remember any of my peers, even the least intelligent of us, experiencing difficulty using an approach based initially on phonetics and the sounds formed by groups of letters.

Ultimately, of course, one progresses into a "look and say"

titudes made interesting reading. Yesterday I was subjected to considerable harassment by four youths in a large car. After a deal of gesticulating, horn-blowing, etc., they drove at great speed through a residential area. They found this very amusing and I assumed they were drunk or otherwise incapable.

I noted the car number and rang the Thames Valley Police. I was told that nothing could be done as I was alone in my car and therefore could not produce an independent witness.

Yours faithfully,  
MERLE E. CORBETT,  
5 Astor Close,  
Winkham, Wokingham, Berkshire.  
January 25.

mode, but I have never understood modern primary teachers' fierce opposition to a visually phonetic approach, since the "look-say" method commences with the pupil in a vacuum.

Has the modern approach created a generation of dyslexics who might have fared better on the old regime?

Yours faithfully,  
KATE JEMMETT,  
Kilm Field, Puttenham,  
Guildford, Surrey.  
January 24.

## UK attitude to Dalai Lama

From Lord Ennals and others  
Sir, Though martial law has been lifted in Beijing, it is still ruthlessly imposed in Lhasa. Yet last month when we asked in a Lords debate whether, if the exiled Tibetan leader, HH the Dalai Lama, were to visit Britain, a minister would meet him, we were astonished and saddened to hear the answer from the Government front bench that no minister would be permitted to do so.

We are unaware of any other occasion when Her Majesty's Government has refused to meet a Nobel prize-winner. Indeed, we know that others, such as Lech Walesa, Archbishop Tutu, and Andrei Sakharov, were received with enthusiasm. Conversely, the Prime Minister has not been afraid to receive leaders who have followed paths not at all associated with peace and of representatives of opposition groups. Examples are leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the African National Congress, and the Cambodian resistance.

The British Government justifies its treatment of the latest Nobel Laureate as some sort of international pariah by saying that a meeting with him would "be open to misinterpretation". It is an answer that smacks more of fear than of caution. Presidents and prime ministers in Norway, Costa Rica, and Mexico have not been afraid to receive the Dalai Lama, in spite of the threats from Beijing. He is visiting Prague this week, at the invitation of a Government tasting its first weeks of democracy and of a president new to his high office.

As the winds of change blow across Europe, should we not remember that those movements were led by people and politicians who have stood up, unafraid, for democracy and freedom? Is there not something here from which the British Government should learn in its future dealings with Beijing? When change comes in China, as it is bound to do sooner or later, people will recall those who gave support to the freedom movement and those who refused to do so.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID ENNALS,  
AVEBURY,  
DIANA ELLES,  
JANE EWART-BIGGS,  
MERSEY,  
DAVID WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE,  
House of Lords,  
January 29.

### BBC arts policy

From Mr Leslie Megahey  
Sir, There are curious misapprehensions detectable behind Sheridan Morley's two-weeks-in-a-row argument (January 20, 27) about BBC Television's arts policy. Bewilderingly, he dismisses *The Late Show* from his observations about our coverage of topical arts issues. Yet that is the main brief of the series.

Last week the programme featured a debate on Gary Taylor's provocative new book on Shakespeare, a film on the rehanging of the Tate Gallery, a feature on the playwright Howard Barker, and an exposé of the Frans Hals controversy which was handsomely recognised elsewhere in your pages. None of this seems to be obsessively *avant-garde*.

Mr Morley appears similarly confused about *Arena*, lamenting its conversion from a "general arts programme" to a willfully random series. But it always was unashamedly eclectic, which is how it made its name, won its five Baffa (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) awards, and can continue to produce work of the quality of last week's *Obitvov*.

Mr Morley seems to think *Arena* has replaced *Omnibus*. *Omnibus* runs on BBC 1 in the autumn, *Arena* on BBC 2 from January to May. For further study of our arts policy, I refer Mr Morley to the other 300 hours plus of arts documentary and performance which we will be transmitting this year.

Yours faithfully,  
LESLIE MEGAHEY  
(Head of Music and Arts),  
BBC Television,  
Wood Lane, W12,  
January 31.

### Cleaning up London

From Mr Peter Johnson  
Sir, I do not wish to become embroiled in the internecine struggles of Westminster City Council (letters, Councillors Segal and Dimoldenberg, January 26 and 30 respectively). However, it is worth pointing out that at the time Westminster invited tenders for its refuse collection and cleansing service Cory Onyx Limited simply did not exist. Indeed, we established it as a response to the paucity of competent contractors operating in this marketplace.

Through its environmental division Cory Onyx's parent company, Ocean Group plc, has in fact been providing waste-management services to the people of London in partnership with local government for more than 60 years. Annually we transport and dispose of 500,000 tonnes of the capital's household refuse.

The boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, and Wandsworth are the beneficiaries of our containerised barge-transportation system. These long-term contracts, and others before them, were of course secured as a result of highly in-

## 'Catch 22' if postal monopoly ends

From the General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers  
Sir, Your leading article (February 2) discussing the possibility of the ending of the Post Office's monopoly on letter delivery should cause widespread alarm amongst the general public, especially people living in outlying or rural areas.

Even free marketeers, anxious to privatise the Post Office, agree that the universal tariff first introduced by Rowland Hill in 1840 would have to go if the letter monopoly was abolished. That would mean differential pricing according to distance or ease of access.

As private operators would only be interested in creaming off more profitable inter-city and urban traffic, the Post Office could only compete by dropping its present cross-subsidy for outlying deliveries which totals about 6 per cent of turnover, or £180 million.

Removal of the rural subsidy would force the price of a stamp for rural collections or deliveries up to a 75p range. (The alternative is to reduce still further the service.)

Although that would be the inevitable consequence of simply ending the letter monopoly, this would also be the result if the Government simply decided to reduce the £1 limit under which private couriers cannot handle letters.

Postal workers are not afraid of competition, but the public will suffer unless the competition is on a level playing field. If Mr Ridley (report, February 1) retains the basic monopoly but effectively erodes it simply by reducing the £1

limit, private companies are again going to opt only for profitable traffic—a special next-day service for urban deliveries at, say, 50p. To be consistent, the Government must require competitors to have the same obligations of delivery and collection to all parts of the UK at the same price.

Our members are just as dissatisfied with existing levels of service as everyone else. We want to provide the public with the reliable, guaranteed next-day service which once made the British Post Office the envy of the world. But that requires investment—in modernising antiquated Victorian sorting offices and in staff resources (turnover amongst postmen is over 50 per cent in some areas in the South-east and recruitment is very difficult because of low earnings).

Yet the Government's stringent financial targets have forced the Post Office to cut costs and make profits rather than invest in improved services; £671 million has been transferred into Government coffers through external finance limit payments over the past 10 years.

So the Government is responsible for a "Catch 22" situation. First, it has prevented the Post Office from investing the amounts needed to improve services; then it seeks to use the resulting public dissatisfaction as an excuse to privatise by abolishing or relaxing the monopoly.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN TUFFIN,  
General Secretary,  
Union of Communication Workers,  
U.C.W. House, Crescent Lane, SW4,  
February 2.

Crisis in Caucasus

From the Director General of the International Centre for Islamic Studies  
Sir, The Ambassador of the Soviet Union, giving his view of Moscow's military action in Azerbaijan (January 27), admitted that in both Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan "the ethnic conflict grew into military actions between the groups of both nationalities". But the state of emergency was only clamped in Azerbaijan, using excessive force and firepower in the presence of the Soviet Defence Minister himself.

The ambassador's claim that "military forces have been sent with one purpose only—to prevent further bloodshed"—was already contradicted by his Defence Minister, General Dimitri Yezov, who told a press conference in Baku last week that the Army had been used to crush the Azerbaijani Popular Front.

Evidently, the ethnic Muslims in the Soviet Union are excluded from the selective application of *perestroika*. While the Russian President himself went pleading and placating the nationalists in the Baltic, he sent his tanks and troops to suppress nationalist aspirations of the Azerbaijani Muslims.

Yours faithfully,  
S. A. MOID, Director-General,  
International Centre for Islamic Studies,  
144-146 King's Cross Road, W.C1,  
January 30.

To memory dear

From Mr R. P. Heazell  
Sir, As archivist and historian of The Hall, Hampstead, I have been intrigued by the competing claims of your correspondents (January 16, 20, 22, 23, 25) over static school fees in days of yore. Can any school match the achievement of my predecessor, G. A. Watken? In March, 1948, he wrote to parents as follows:

When I took over The Hall in 1924, the tuition fees were 16 guineas a term. They have remained at this figure ever since.

The reason given for a 25 per cent increase the following term has a much more contemporary ring to it.

... the independent schools will not survive unless they can compete effectively with the State schools in the recruiting of teachers.

The fact that Hall fees have risen 60-fold since 1948 is in large measure an indicator of the school's attention to this observation about teachers' salaries.

Yours faithfully,  
PADDY HEAZELL (Headmaster),  
The Hall, Crossfield Road,  
Hampstead, NW3.

## Continuing quest for church unity

From Lady Thwaites  
Sir, Canon John Reynolds (January 27) must be challenged when he says that "unity in all our churches is a matter of degree". Catholics believe that one holy, catholic and apostolic Church already exists and, according to Vatican II, this Church is "a sign and instrument of Communion with God and of unity among all men", a unity which "subsists in the Church as something she can never lose", whereas "other churches are not blessed with that unity".

These unequivocal statements can be softened by other references from the council's decrees but not denied. Thus a unique unity is claimed which is expressed in Holy Communion and which logically excludes those who do not share the same faith.

For Catholics, then, full unity is a ship which, while in need of constant renovation, is none the less a ship to be boarded, not one to be built, and the obligation to preserve that unity can hardly be regarded by them as less grave than the duty to achieve it.

It seems to be the case that there are two kinds of unity; the first is well defined by Canon Reynolds as a "reconciled diversity" and is to be welcomed as such. But within this wider, looser unity of Christians as a whole there is a formal unity in which Christ's authority is not only acknowledged but also located as operating in and through a particular church. It is this visible, audible, living authority which is believed to be the necessary principle of true and abiding unity.

In any case, attempts to seek agreement for its own sake, or to signify it where it is not in truth to be found, are doomed to failure.

Instead of moaning about the status quo, therefore, would it not be better gladly to continue to gather the harmonious search, already well in hand, for a greater understanding of the truth in which alone we can be made one? Yours faithfully,  
KATHARINE THWAITES,  
Miltonhore,  
Winchester, Hampshire.  
January 29.

From Mr Paul Bird  
Sir, I do so agree with Canon Reynolds. No Anglican who has experienced the same kind of contact with the Roman Catholic Church as he has, and which he so movingly describes, can have failed to come to the same conclusion as he, namely that because the Eucharist is pre-eminently the sacrament of unity, whatever else may divide us, at this point at least we are already one.

Though we are many we are one body because we all share in the one bread—who dare say that this does not refer, in substance, to the entire body of Christian believers and indeed, through time, to the entire body of humankind? May we not, therefore, look forward to the day, not too far hence, when individual Anglicans of catholic persuasion could, if they so desire, be received into the Church of Rome whilst permitted to remain Anglicans and, for all regular purposes, continue their customary practice of worship within their own communion. Thus they would become both Anglican and Roman Catholic—the nearest analogy to which being perhaps that of acquiring dual nationality. Yours faithfully,  
PAUL BIRD,  
73 Alredale Avenue,  
Chiswick, W4,  
January 30.

### Storm comfort

From Dr H. A. Kanitkar  
Sir, On the night of the severe storm which paralysed London I, along with many others, was marooned at Moorfields Eye Hospital in City Road after surgical treatment, with no way of getting home. Many patients, like myself, were diabetic, and in need of prompt attention.

Words cannot express the appreciation I feel for all the staff of this hospital, who coped in a patient, considerate and practical, helpful way with the tensions of patients far from home, sometimes with impaired vision, sometimes disabled as well. We were made to feel "at home" and welcome, even though we must have caused disruption to hospital routine.

This was the National Health Service at its best; anyone who doubts the country's need for such a service should have been with us at Moorfields on the night of January 25. Yours faithfully,  
HELEN KANITKAR,  
83 Bulwer Road,  
New Barnet, Hertfordshire.  
January 26.

### Blow by blow

From Mr Mark Dakin  
Sir, While standing in a crowded train, much delayed by damage caused by the recent strong winds, I noticed a fellow passenger reading a book entitled *Maha—The Hurricane Years, 1940 and 1941*. No doubt he had left *The Wind in the Willows* at home. Yours faithfully,  
MARK DAKIN,  
24 Castle Road,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire.  
January 29.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number—(01782) 5946.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 2: This evening The Princess Royal, Patron, United Kingdom/New Zealand 1990 Organisation, attended the Waitangi Day Dinner at Grosvenor House, Park Lane.

Her Royal Highness was attended by Mrs Andrew Feilden.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
February 2: The Princess of Wales, Patron, British Deaf Association, attended a lunch to launch their Centenary Year at the Mansion House, EC4.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Mr Richard Arlender were in attendance.

**Luncheon**  
Newspaper Conference  
Professor Roland Smith, Chairman of British Aerospace, was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual luncheon of the Newspaper Conference held yesterday at the London International Press Centre. Mr Frederick Hackett, chairman of the conference, presided.

### Inner Temple

The Princess Royal has been elected a Royal Bencher of the Inner Temple.

## Birthdays

**TODAY:** Sir Anthony Almont, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 68; Miss Gillian Ayres, painter, 60; Mr Val Doonican, singer, 61; Viscountess Darnley, 55; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gilling, 65; Sir Edgar Keatinge, former MP and company director, 85; Mr James A. Michener, author, 83; Miss Della O'Callaghan, managing-director, Barbican Centre, 52; Miss Elaine Padmore, opera singer and director, 43; Brigadier the Hon Dame Mary Pihl, former director, WRAC, 74; Professor Sir Alexander Roberts, veterinarian, 82; Lord Sberfield, 86; Mr Glen Tedder, choreographer, 64; Mr Frankie Vaughan, singer, 62.

### Marriages

Mr P. J. Mowatt and Miss M. V. A. Ogilvy

The marriage took place on Friday, February 2, at St Andrew's Church, Hain, between Mr Paul Mowatt and Miss Marina Ogilvy. The Reverend David Moore officiated.

Mr C.R. Plunkett-Erle-Drax and Miss C.M. Wall

The marriage took place yesterday at St Augustine's, High Wycombe, of Mr Charles Plunkett-Erle-Drax, third son of Mr and the Hon Mrs W. Plunkett-Erle-Drax, of a Charborough Park, Wareham, Dorset, to Miss Camilla Wall, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Wall, of The Apple Orchard, Bradenham, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The Rev William Strain and the Rev Nicolas Stacey officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emily Farry, Emily Trenchard, Tamara Drax, Sophia Brudenell, Clare Corbett, Michael and David Parsons, Edward Bamfylde and Oliver Wilkinson. Mr Anthony Forrester was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride.

## OBITUARIES

### HELEN JEROME EDDY

Silent screen star who became real estate agent

Helen Jerome Eddy, a silent screen actress who ventured briefly into talking pictures during the 'Thirties before retiring from the cinema, has died in Los Angeles at the age of 92.

Miss Eddy, whose best known work came in the 1920s, was raised in Los Angeles and was attracted to films by the old Philadelphia-based studio of Siegmund Lubin, which had just opened a film lot in her neighbourhood. There she made a first film, *The Red Virgin*, in 1915.

She moved from there to Paramount Studios and began to appear in a number of starring roles. Typical of her work during that period were *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* (1916), *The March Hare* (1921), *The Dark Angel* (1925), *Camille* (1927) and *The Divine Lady* (1927).

One of her first sound pictures, also for Paramount, was *Sooky* (1931). She went on to appear in *The Bitter Tea of General Yen*, the bizarre story of a missionary who falls in love with a Chinese warlord, with Barbara Stanwyck (1933); *The Garden of Allah* with Marlene Dietrich (1936); and her last film, *Strike Up the Band* in 1940, in which she played the mother of one of Mickey Rooney's friends.

She claimed she had become dissatisfied, according to close associates, with the fees paid her by Hollywood studios, and retired from films to pursue a successful real estate career in the upper class suburb of Pasadena. But she did appear in several local stage productions and was a regular at the old Pilgrimage Theatre in the Hollywood Hills where she portrayed religious figures.



Helen Jerome Eddy with Jackie Cooper in Paramount's *Sooky*, 1931

She never married and leaves no known survivors.

### MICHAEL CLARK

Carvings and sculptures for places of worship throughout Britain

Michael Clark, who had a distinguished career as a sculptor and was a past President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, died at his home in Chertsey, Surrey, on January 24, aged 71.

He was born in Chertsey and educated at Westminster Cathedral Choir School and Blackfriars School. Both his father, Philip, and his grandfather, Robert, were sculptors. Although Michael Clark worked first on a farm and then in the theatre for a time, he quickly realised that sculpture was his true calling and joined the family studio in Chelsea, dropping the name Lindsey in order to clearly differentiate himself from his father.

The Second World War intervened and Clark obtained his commission in the London Scottish before joining the Cameronians. His was an active war, where among other engagements, he was to head an occupation force in the Faroe Islands for 16 months, and fought in both the North African Desert War and the Italian campaign.

Clark became an Associate Member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors in 1949, a Fellow and long term Council Member culminating in his election to the presidency from 1971 to 1976.

He was a devout Roman Catholic and a man of unerring principle. In 1949 he started work on a series of commissions at "The Friars", Aylesford, Kent, where the Carmelite monks were to spend 20 years restoring the abbey to its former glory.

Some of Clark's best works adorn the abbey, perhaps the finest work being the figure of "Our Lady of the Assumption" which won his first Otto Beit Medal in 1960. He was awarded the Silver Medal of the Royal Society of British Sculptors in 1967 for a large carved relief of "Welcoming Christ" over the West Door of Westminster Abbey.

Clark's works are to be found in cathedrals, churches and chapels throughout the United Kingdom. However, deviating from his usual pattern of work, he gained a further Otto Beit Medal in 1978 for a group carved in Portland stone, "Pastoral", a distinctly secular piece.

Although mainly known as a carver, in his latter years Clark also showed a fine sensibility for modelled form. Clark was a convinced supporter of the ecumenical movement.

He also spent the last 10 years of his life as an unofficial carver at St Anselm's Church, Hindhead, becoming a eucharistic minister and taking Holy Communion to the old and sick of the parish.

His wife Katie, whom he married in 1942, died in 1987. He leaves five sons and three daughters.

### Clifford Longley

## Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom

There is probably only one Victorian Englishman of whom it may safely be said that his influence has even now not reached its peak. John Henry Newman was born on February 21, 1801 and died August 11, 1890. This is his centenary year, and the two dates have made a useful bracket for a sort of Newman season or festival all over Britain.

His two Oxford colleges, Oriel and Trinity, anticipated the first date by inaugurating a series of weekly lectures in his honour last month. The Chancellor of Oxford, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, is to conclude the series appropriately with a lecture expounding one of Newman's most celebrated and civilised works, *The Idea of a University*, on February 27, followed by a dinner at Trinity, Birmingham, to which Newman moved after Oxford, is having a civic dinner in his honour; and all the other institutions with which he was connected, or which claim some association, are similarly arranging their events. The National Portrait Gallery is staging a Newman exhibition, starting on March 2.

*The Idea of a University* remains the classic statement of the case for liberal education as good in itself, thereby investing Newman with the posthumous status of a controversialist in the contemporary debate about the meaning and purpose of the academic life.

He was a controversialist throughout his long career, not in this the first time his voice has been heard from the grave. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who has two Newman services to preach at this year, recently declared that some of Newman's questions, especially on the development of doctrine in the Christian Church, were still waiting to be taken seriously and the time had come to face them. *The Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* is a uniquely ecumenical work. Newman having started it as an Anglican and completed it as a Roman Catholic.

It is an extraordinary man indeed who is still writing the agenda a century after his death. Newman certainly wrote the agenda of the Second Vatican Council from the grave, changing the whole direction in which the Roman Catholic Church was moving with consequences which will last for centuries yet. Cardinal Manning, his slight friend and strong foe, regarded Newman's "old Anglican", patristic, literary, Oxford tone "as inimical to the triumphal intolerance of the dominant mood of Catholicism of the late nineteenth century, and events 100 years later showed how accurate his misgivings were. Vatican II, more than one Pope has since remarked, was "Newman's Council".

Before the Council his writings were the inspiration for a whole generation of Catholic theologians struggling to uncoil themselves from the stranglehold of scholasticism, and because he had been made a cardinal as a personal tribute by

Pope Leo XIII, Newman was an unimpeachable foundation for them to build on. Through him, some distinctive English thoughts and ideas, not least the primacy of conscience before authority and all else, have gained a universal Catholic circulation. Meanwhile the full impact of his *Consoling the Faithful on Matters of Doctrine* still lies in the future, and is not without relevance to the unresolved dispute over contraception.

He was a particularly English cardinal, and it was a particularly English way that he got his red hat - members of the aristocracy, including the then Duke of Norfolk, used their influence. The novelist A.N. Wilson has said of Newman that he was the only Victorian



intellectual of the first rank who had not been disabused of Christian faith by the theories of Charles Darwin; and Newman himself said he was happy to "go the whole hog" with Darwin's hypothesis of natural selection.

But far from this marking his surrender to scepticism, he promptly set another of his great works, his *Grammar of Assent*, to vindicate religious faith before the challenge of science and agnosticism. It too is ripe for revival, for these issues still perplex. It is a philosophical masterpiece in the area of epistemology (how one knows what one knows) which is again becoming a fashionable and fertile field of philosophical inquiry.

He was above all a churchman and theologian, though in the nineteenth century circles of expertise were not so discrete as today - he was also a friend of Gladstone, a violinist, a regular butt of Punch cartoons, and a grand master of English prose. Apart from his immense theological output and a vast correspondence, he founded two religious houses and a public school, and a university (in Dublin); he wrote one of

the best autobiographies in the English language, *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, two novels, of which his *Dream of Gerontius* has entered the standard choral repertoire; and from it comes the hymn *Praise to the Holiest in the highest*, still a popular favourite with Sunday congregations, as is his *Lead Kindly Light*.

If he was a genius of sorts, he was also a saint? Of a sort, perhaps he was. There is an official "cause" in his name before the tribunals of Rome, and no lack of goodwill towards it in the highest places. His intertemperate quarrel with the London Oratorians and his cynical view of Manning might suggest he had unsuitably moral faults; or might merely suggest that they were insufferable. Some who met him late in life had a distinct impression that they were in the presence of a saint.

He wrote of himself: "I have nothing of a saint about me as everyone knows. I have no tendency to be a saint... saints are not literary men, they do not love the classics, they do not write tales." But there is a characteristic touch of irony about that disclaimer. It would certainly need the Vatican dicasteries to apply a more than usually broadminded test of sainthood, for him to qualify. It is as a result of Vatican II, and therefore partly due to Newman himself, that such an intelligent adjustment of the criteria can even be contemplated.

He could even be the first ecumenical saint, though not yet. Before his death most Anglicans had begun to forgive him his defection. There is a whole party of Anglicanism still busy, the Anglo-Catholic party, which owes its existence as much to him as to anyone; and there is no party of Anglicanism which has not felt his influence to some degree (and Newman never completely stopped being an evangelical, whatever his formal allegiance).

Dr Runcie seems minded to deepen his effect on the Church of England even further. It has been a little slow to recognize his real greatness, perhaps because it is only recently that Anglicans have felt free to appropriate for themselves the glories of his post-Anglican career. It is significant that Anglicans who have looked into the Catholic Newman say they find a great deal that is recognizable and familiar, very Anglican in temper. In this communal age the Church of England is beginning to think it can rightly feel proud of having produced such a giant rather than sorry it could not hold on to him - as proud as Oxford manifestly is.

If he deserved to be a cardinal then, for services rendered then, he surely no less deserves to be a saint now, for services rendered since. And no doubt, also, for services still to come. It would be timely, in this Newman centenary season, for there to be some sign of progress towards his canonization, in the Roman Catholic Church; and some sign of enthusiasm for the prospect, in the Church of England.

## GÜNTHER KLOSS

British higher education and the spur of Europe

Günther Kloss, first Director of the Centre for European Studies established jointly by the University of Manchester and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in 1987, has died, aged 56, after a courageous fight against cancer.

Kloss's interests in European higher education and training had made him of recent years a well-known figure in both academic and policy circles throughout Europe.

Of German origin - he was born in what is now East Germany in 1933 and first came to this country in the 1950s after reading English and French at Tübingen University - he was particularly made himself an expert on the post-1945 West German higher education system. In recent years he has often found himself the sole United Kingdom representative at high-level European meetings on higher education subjects. The contemporary decline of the UK higher education system, relative to the West German one, was of special sadness to him.

With Professor Philip Thody of Leeds University, he was invited a few years back by the Foreign Office to conduct a study of foreign language training in the British Diplomatic Service.

After a spell of language

teaching at Nottingham, Kloss in 1961 joined the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology as a modern languages lecturer. He was Warden of Chander Hall, UMIST, from 1962 to 1973 and became a Senior Lecturer in 1974.

Kloss was an ideal choice when Manchester University and UMIST decided to set up a European Centre in recognition of the potential emerging elsewhere in Europe for enterprising British universities. He was ever alert in drawing the attention of colleagues both to new European Community initiatives and, from his contacts in European higher education, to those Continental universities with a particular capacity to complement Manchester and UMIST. He also saw the Centre as a vehicle for bringing together a whole range of disciplines, as well as others with practical concerns, for analysis of policy issues.

It was while arranging an Erasmus exchange with the University of Burgundy in Dijon that he became ill last October.

Kloss's principal work was *West Germany: An Introduction* (1976). He had served as chairman of the Association for the Study of German Politics.

He is survived by his wife Diana, whom he married in 1963, and two sons.

### LORD McALPINE OF MOFFAT

Alan Grieve writes:  
Having read your obituary (January 8) of Lord McAlpine of Moffat, I would like, if I may, to add to your own recognition of his achievements and long life.

Having worked with Edwin McAlpine for some thirty years and known him in the recent decade or so as a very good friend, I may be able to express what many of his friends must feel.

We should remember Edwin McAlpine's earlier support of racing in his capacity as Chairman of Sandown, which under his leadership acquired Epsom and was formed into United Racescourses. His presence at

Epsom thereafter had centred on the McAlpine Box which became a mecca for friends and business associates over very many years.

More recently in addition to being a distinguished owner - he won the Racehorse Owners Award after the successes of Devon Ditty - and a member of the Jockey Club, Edwin McAlpine has been the moving spirit in developing the British racing School at Newmarket and again under his Chairmanship it has emerged from the shadows and is both viable and making a full contribution to the racing industry and the future working lives of stable lads.

## Forthcoming marriages

Wing Cdr D.J. Anten, RAF and Mrs A.E.J. Hodges, RN

The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr R.J.H. Anten, of Upton-upon-Severn, Worcs, and Mrs V.B. Hodges, of Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs W.G. Hodges, of Swanscombe, Kent.

Mr R.A. Barry and Miss S.E. Calvert  
The engagement is announced between Richard Anthony, son of Lt Col Michael and Elizabeth Barry, of Broadwood, Devon, and Susan Elizabeth, daughter of Sgt Ldr Richard and Susan Calvert, of Robin Hood's Bay, North Yorkshire.

Mr N.A. Crean and Miss S.A.I. Mason  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of the late Mr J.A.H. Crean and of Mrs J. Keeling, of Hurst House, Sedlescombe, Sussex, and Sarah, daughter of the late Dr D.R.I. Mason and of Mrs V. Mason, of Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Mr D.J.C. Danks and Miss K.L. Johns  
The engagement is announced between David, son of Major and Mrs J.C. Danks, of Wiltshire, and Kathryn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs B.T. Johns, of Epsom, Surrey.

Mr L.J. Duffy and Miss N.M. Durnin  
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs James Duffy, of Highley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dermot Durnin, of Reading, Berkshire.

Mr N.J.H. Fielden and Miss N.M. Slinger  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs J.A.H. Fielden, of Rotherham, Cheshire, and Nicola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Slinger, of Sarnesbury, Lancashire.

Mr J. Goldsmith and Miss J.F. Harris  
The engagement is announced between John (Nicholas) son of Cdr and Mrs J. Goldsmith, of Hambledon, Hampshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs I. Harris, of Ashprington, Devon.

Mr R.J. Hainsworth and Miss C.L.M. Tyler  
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Hainsworth, of Melbourne, Australia, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Major General and Mrs Christopher Tyler, of Fulham, London.

Mr C.M. Hobbs and Miss A.J. Pincock  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Hobbs, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and Toni, only daughter of Major and Mrs Edward Pincock, of Faversham, Kent.

Mr M.W. Kenyon and Miss S.B. Berry  
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mrs B. Kenyon and the late Mr B. Kenyon, of Bournemouth, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.B. Berry, of Chichester.

Mr E. Nadarajah and Miss A.B. Howell  
The engagement is announced between Elanora, younger son of Mr and Mrs M. Nadarajah, of Selangor, Malaysia, and Alison Brown, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs L.E. Howell, of Highgate, Dumfriesshire.

Mr J.E. Palmer and Miss J.L. White  
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.J.F. Palmer, of Holland Park, London, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.T.L. White, of Pond Head, Oulton, North Yorkshire.

Mr M.S. Porter and Miss S.C. Morgan  
The engagement is announced between Mark, second son of Mr and Mrs Roy Porter, of Chawell Avenue, Gloucester, and Sian, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Vivian Morgan, of Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Captain M.G. McN. Sheldford and Miss S.E. Chapman  
The engagement is announced between Captain Mark Sheldford, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, youngest son of the late Reverend Gordon Sheldford, of Cricklade, Wiltshire, and Sally, younger daughter of Brigadier and Mrs John Chapman, of Stuckles Farm, Sussex.

Mr W.M.A. Stewart and Miss C.R. Britton  
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs P.F. Stewart, of Lyditch, Dorset, and Carole, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.C. Britton, of Wiltshire, Devon.

Mr S.C. Stand and Miss P.S.C. Taylor  
The engagement is announced between Simon George, son of Mr Samuel Stand, of Platts, and Mrs William King, of Orchard House, Cobham, Kent, and Philippa Sarah Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Taylor, of The Old Parsonage, Aust, or Bristol.

### Service dinners

Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar  
A dinner was given by the Nursing Officers of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service last night at the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, Portsmouth, to mark the retirement of Miss E. M. Norbury as Matron-in-Chief. Miss J. Tyler, Principal Nursing Officer, presided.

Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club  
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriff, was a speaker at a dinner given by the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club last night at Armoury House. Colonel and Alderman Sir Greville Spratt, president, was in the chair and Battery Sergeant-Major G.S. Passmore, Colonel R.A. Burford and the Dean of St Paul's also spoke.

### Oratory School

The Cardinal Newman Centenary Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 2, 1990 at the Oratory School. Solemn Mass will be celebrated at 11 am by the Provost of Birmingham Oratory and the Archbishop of Birmingham will be the preacher. The Chorus and Orchestra of the Cambridge University Musical Society, conducted by Stephen Cleobury, will perform *The Dream of Gerontius* at 7.30 pm. Any old Oratorians wishing to attend either or both of the above functions should apply in writing to the Headmaster's Secretary by February 28, 1990.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Felix Mendelssohn, Hamburg, 1809; Elizabeth Blackwell, co-founder of the London School of Medicine for Women, Bristol, 1821; Robert Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, prime minister 1885-86, 1886-92, 1895-1902, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, 1830; Hugh Montague Trenchard, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police 1931-35, Test Valley, 1873; Gertrude Stein, novelist and critic, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1874; Alvar Aalto, architect and designer, Kuopio, Finland, 1898; Luigi Dallapiccola, composer, Pistoia, Austria, 1904.

**DEATHS:** Germaine Pilon, sculptor, Paris, 1590; Richard ('Buster') Nash, master of ceremonies at Bath, 1761; George Crabbe, poet, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1832; Sir Morell Maclean, zee, physician, London, 1892; Woodrow Wilson, 28th president of the USA 1913-21, Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Oliver Heaviside, physicist, London, 1925; Boris Karloff, actor, Midhurst, Sussex, 1969.

**TOMORROW**  
BIRTHS: Pierre Marivaux, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1688;

**Horners' Company**  
The following have been elected Officers of the Horners' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Newton K. Grant; Upper Warden, Mr Donald du Parc Braham; Renter Warden, Mr Harry Kleiman; Deputy Master, Mr Bernard Schavieren.

**Lecture**  
Royal Society  
Sir George Porter, OM, President of the Royal Society, presided at the annual Croonian lecture delivered by Professor R.A. Hinde at 6 Carlton House Terrace last night.

The Yalta Conference of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, 1945. The first "colour supplement" was issued - with *The Sunday Times*, 1962.







## SATURDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

## A quip for all seasons

Peter Waymark

Even if he did nothing but face the cameras and grunt, a television interview by Marlon Brando would be an event. Brando's appearances on the small screen have become even rarer than his films. When he was finally enticed last year by the American newscaster Connie Chung, he had not graced the box for 16 years. There must have been times when Chung wished she had never bothered Brando (Channel 4, 10.15pm) is not so much an interview, more a contest between an ageing overweight and a nimble flyweight in which Chung's quick wit and Brando's quick wit are pitted against each other. But even when, as happens often, he declines to answer the questions, Brando is still excellent value.



Excellent value: Marlon Brando talks to Connie Chung (Channel 4, 10.15pm)

Looking like a physical parody of Orson Welles, he has the quip for all seasons. Asked why he has not worked for nine years, he says he has spent the time watching ants going up and down his sink. Invited to say something about his new baby, he tells Ms Chung there is nothing more unsettling to the stomach than watching actors on television talking about their private lives. Chung does not always help matters. Her attempts to label him a "great" actor who made "great" films are rightly scorned. Brando affects much superior indignation but now and again erupts into genuine anger, as when discussing his abortive attempt to make a film about the "genocide" of the American Indians. He is not best pleased, either, with the cuts to his latest film, *A Dry White Season*, his fee for which — \$3.3 million, plus 11 per cent of the profits — he is giving to the anti-apartheid movement. During the bleak winter of 1946-47 the British newsreel cameraman Peter Hopkinson was in the Byelorussian capital of Minsk, recording scenes of a war-devastated city for the United Nations relief organization. Many buildings had been flattened, the people were starving and 80 per cent of their diet was being supplied through the UN. The most stirring of Hopkinson's footage was of the city's orphan children trying to rebuild their lives. In *Orphans of Minsk* (Channel 4, 3.30pm), Hopkinson catches up with some of them, confronts them with celluloid images of their younger selves and elicits their hopes and fears as a restructuring which may turn out to be little less traumatic than that of 1946.

## A journey that is worth making

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davalle

Entering unfamiliar terrain, without benefit of map or compass (and not even sure he wanted to be there anyway), I was surprised to find myself reluctant to stop listening to *The Journeyman* (Radio 1, 2.00pm), an assessment of the blues guitarist Eric Clapton who, up to now, impinged himself on my consciousness only because of the dark blue music he wrote for the BBC television nuclear thriller *Edge of Darkness*. Although the sounds Clapton makes are not wholly to my taste, the insight that *The Journeyman* provides into both the man and his music might well encourage me to tune in to tonight's live performance by Clapton and supporting artists from the Royal Albert Hall (Radio 1, 8.30) or — more likely — to next Saturday night's premiere (also on Radio 1) of the guitar concerto specially written for Clapton by Michael Kamen. It's Hurray for Captain



Eric Clapton: an insight into his music (Radio 1, 2.00pm)

Spalding (Marx Brothers fans will understand what I'm talking about) and Hurray for Radio 4, because Funny that Way, Barry Cryer's salute to Groucho is being repeated (11.30pm). So, we have yet another chance to enjoy the priceless "sanity clause" sketch, hear Margaret Dumont graciously surviving those classic insults and Groucho blending the wistful with the ridiculous in "Show Me a Rose", and telling the waiter to sober them with black coffee when he is told that they are stewed prunes on the menu.

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

## KANZU

(a) A long white cotton or linen robe as worn by East African men, from the Swahili "Dressed in a white kanzu, with a tunic over it, he was an attractive little figure."

## AFFLUENZA

(a) Psychological disturbance arising from excess of wealth, a jocular portmanteau of *affluence* and *influenza*. "Affluenza can stretch back to childhood. Rich kids grow up in a

golden ghetto without the sun."

(b) Chatlock or the wild radish in Scottish dialect, *Brassica Sinigrastrum*. "This ground, if it is much damaged, runs excessively to runches."

(c) A grey striped phial worn by shepherds in the south of Scotland, orig. abs., but of maily course grey cloth. "A grey maily compassed such an equipment as, since Juvenal's days, has been the livery of the poor scholar."

## BBC 1

12.00 Commonwealth Games. Steve Rider introduces action from the last night of the Games, including highlights of the men's 1,500 final. At 6.50am there is coverage of the closing ceremony.

9.00 Going Live! with Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield. They are joined by special guests Esther Hantzen and Camille Delfino. Plus live music from Technoboy's Ya Kid K, another chapter in the continuing search for the talented Teacher and Philip Hodge with advice for teenagers 12-12 Weather.

12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20, 1.10, 1.40 and 4.10.

Commonwealth Games: highlights of the finals of the men's 1,500m, the men's 4x400m relay, the sprint relays, three field events, road race cycling and judo. 12.55 News. 1.30 and 1.25 Skating: the men's downhill from Chamorix; 1.55 Rugby Union: live coverage of the game in Paris between France and England. The commentators are Nigel Stanger-Smith and Bill Beaumont; and live second half action from Dublin in the game between Ireland and Scotland described by Bill McLaren. 4.40 Football results.

5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather.

5.15 Regional News and Sport.

5.20 The Flying Doctors: Give a Dog a Bone. An elderly couple travelling around the Outback are found murdered and suspicion falls on three young men from a visiting carnival. Starring Robert Grubb. (Ceefax)

6.05 Jen! Fix It. Jimmy Savile makes drama come true for some more youngsters including Caroline Williams, who gets to dance with Ben of Cuckoo! Killed the Cat, and Keith Atwood, who, after being told so often that he was worth his weight in gold, decides to find out exactly how much that comes to. (Ceefax)

6.40 Little and Large. The two crusaders return in a new series of comedy and carry-on capers, joined by special guests Hilary O'Neil, Russell Grant and Marika. (Ceefax)

7.15 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. Paul Daniels dazzles in some risky card stunts and is joined by American skateboarding duo Diane and Primo and Canadian tightrope walkers Agathe and Antoine. (Ceefax)

8.00 Western Beat. Local journalist Gerry Darcy refuses to reveal his source when the squad suspects that someone is tipping him off about their investigations; and Jackie and Morgan are called to a disciplinary hearing over the Highland Case. Starring Brian McCardie and Dean Williamson. (Ceefax)

8.50 News and Sport. With Michael Aspel. Radio chat-show host Jack Kilian returns to his ex-girlfriend as she approaches the final stages of her fight against AIDS, and he uses the station to publicize the lack of state care and medicine for AIDS sufferers. But will the emotional stress prove too much for Jack? (Ceefax)

10.00 Dave Allen. Dave Allen with another collection of witty observations about the human race.

10.30 Commonwealth Games. Steve Rider introduces action from the last night of the Games, including highlights of the men's 1,500 final. At 6.50am there is coverage of the closing ceremony.

11.30 European Figure Skating Championships from Leningrad. Alan Wiles introduces action from the free dance which includes two young British couples from Slough, Lynn Burton and Andrew Place and Ann Hall and Jason Stonefield, competing at this level for the first time.

12.00 Film: The Hot One (1978) starring Mark Hamill and Annie Potts. Comedy drama about a high school student who has his most disastrous possession, a Corvair sports car, stolen. His investigations eventually lead him to Los Angeles and the discovery of an underground hot car network. Directed by Matthew Robbins. 1.40am Weather.

## ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News and it's Standast. Alvin Stardust introduces songs, poems and stories on the theme of fairies (7.00 WAC 90 presented by Michaela Strachan and Tommy Boyd).

9.25 Motorweek 2. Among the guests are Lisa Stansfield and Lorraine Gordon. Also on today's show is an item on fashion for pets.

11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage video this week: Lesley and Sing. 12.30 The Munsters Today. Herman undergoes training to become a civilian astronaut.

1.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. 1.05 GMT News and weather.

1.10 Saint and Greave. Jimmy Greaves and Ian St John review today's big matches and look forward to tomorrow's televised game between Spurs and Norwich.

1.40 Sportsworld. Three new contestants demonstrate their sporting knowledge in the quiz hosted by Dickie Davies.

2.10 Coronation Street. A repeat of Wednesday's and Friday's episodes (7).

3.05 European Figure Skating Championships. Nick Owen presents coverage of the final day's events. Commentators come from Simon Reed, Betty Callaway and Nicky Slater.

4.45 Results Service with Eton Welsby. 5.00 News and weather. 5.05 LWT News and weather.

5.15 Baywatch: Message in a Bottle. Hobbie is upset when he overhears his estranged parents arguing about who should have custody of him, and he runs away to a desert island. Unfortunately, the island is a paradise turned out to be a place full of danger. Starring David Hasselhoff and Brandon Call.

6.10 Catchphrase. A quiz game show hosted by Roy Walker (Oracle).

6.40 Haggard: Eye of Newt. The dissolute Squire Haggard, still searching for a wealthy wife to restore his flagging fortunes, purchases a bottle of Granny Acon's love potion, guaranteed to work — provided it is quaffed by the right person. Starring Keith Barron and Reese Dinsdale. (Oracle)

7.10 Blind Date. Cilla Black plays cupid once again, hoping to match this evening's contestants with the man or woman of their dreams. (Oracle)

8.00 Murder. She Wrote: Mourning Among the Wisterias. Jessica receives a marriage proposal from an ailing playwright who is later found with a gun over the dead body of the lawyer who has been robbing him for years. Starring Angela Lansbury and Barry Nelson.

9.00 Yellowhead Street Middleman. What starts as a routine stakeout for the detectives of Yellowhead Street turns into a major incident when a hospital comes under siege from a gunman on drugs who takes a policeman hostage. Starring Mark McGarr, Ray Lonnien and T2 Ma.

10.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather. 10.15 LWT Weather.

10.20 Aspel and Company. Michael Aspel's chat show this evening on *Mad Max* and *Leslie* (Oracle).

11.00 Tour of Duty: Soldiers. Drama series about a group of new US Army recruits serving in Vietnam.

12.00 Saturday Night at the Movies. Tony Slattery returns for a new series of film reviews and news. In tonight's programme, Sylvester Stallone talks about his tough screen image which he has tried to change in his two latest films *Look Up* and *Tango and Cash*. There are reviews of *Black Rain* starring Michael Douglas, and Sam Shepard's *Far North* starring Jessica Lange and a discussion about the biopic of Chet Baker, *Let's Get Lost*.

12.30am Soap. The continuing saga of the musical roots of Eric Clapton. (Ceefax)

1.00 Golden Globe Awards. The film awards that are sometimes rated as second only to the Oscars. They often provide a clue to who will win Hollywood's most important awards later in the year.

3.00 American College Football. Alabama v Vanderbilt.

5.00 ITN Morning News with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00.

## BBC 2

7.30 Saturday Starts Here with Playdays (7.55) Mersey Tales. Mark Chatterton with David Self's *Punishment* Book of the Week. *Adventures of Mighty Mouse*. 8.15 *Clucidevision* 8.30 *Thundercats*.

8.55 Open University including, at 11.50, Small Business in which entrepreneurs explain how they built up multi-million pound businesses. Among those taking part is Sophie Milman of Sock Shop.

2.45 *Shrikant*. Episode five of the drama serial in Hindi with English subtitles (7).

3.25 *Films in Focus* (1975) featuring Mandy Patinkin and Keith Chegwin. Robin, Lady Marion and the merry band of men find themselves outwitted when the sinister Baron von Maltzberg takes over Locksley Castle while his brother is away on the Crusades. Directed by Matt McCarthy and John Black. (Ceefax)

4.25 *Film: Ice Cold in Alex* (1958, b/w) starring John Mills, Sylvia Sims and Anthony Quayle. Second World War adventure in which the commander of a motor ambulance in the North African desert tries to get his vehicle and passengers to safety despite the problems of an eight-year-old German spy in their midst. Directed by J. Lee Thompson.

6.30 *Newsline* with weather. 7.15 *A Matter for Sense* (happy days). The 1978 Royal Court Theatre production directed by Samuel Beckett himself. Gillie Whitelaw stars as the housewife who copes with the daily routine of life despite being half buried in a mound of earth. Her husband, played by Leonard Fenton, looks on (7).

8.50 *Saturday Night Club*. A look into the ever-changing world of media deregulation.

9.35 *Making Out*. Episode five and Lynne Electronics employs the skills of a human resources manager. Tamsin Carlyle, to maximize profits (7). (Ceefax)

10.25 *Film: Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes* (1984) starring Christopher Lambert, Ralph Richardson and James Fox. When a baby is abandoned in the African jungle an ape comes to his rescue and a legend is born. Directed by Hugh Hudson. (Ceefax). Ends at 12.40am.

## VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALSLEY 5.10pm-6.05pm News on Saturday 2001 LANCASHIRE 1.45pm Rugby Union: France v England live first half 2.40 Live. 11.00 Saturday Night at the Movies 11.20am. 11.30am. 11.40am. 11.50am. 12.00pm. 12.10pm. 12.20pm. 12.30pm. 12.40pm. 12.50pm. 1.00pm. 1.10pm. 1.20pm. 1.30pm. 1.40pm. 1.50pm. 2.00pm. 2.10pm. 2.20pm. 2.30pm. 2.40pm. 2.50pm. 3.00pm. 3.10pm. 3.20pm. 3.30pm. 3.40pm. 3.50pm. 4.00pm. 4.10pm. 4.20pm. 4.30pm. 4.40pm. 4.50pm. 5.00pm. 5.10pm. 5.20pm. 5.30pm. 5.40pm. 5.50pm. 6.00pm. 6.10pm. 6.20pm. 6.30pm. 6.40pm. 6.50pm. 7.00pm. 7.10pm. 7.20pm. 7.30pm. 7.40pm. 7.50pm. 8.00pm. 8.10pm. 8.20pm. 8.30pm. 8.40pm. 8.50pm. 9.00pm. 9.10pm. 9.20pm. 9.30pm. 9.40pm. 9.50pm. 10.00pm. 10.10pm. 10.20pm. 10.30pm. 10.40pm. 10.50pm. 11.00pm. 11.10pm. 11.20pm. 11.30pm. 11.40pm. 11.50pm. 12.00pm. 12.10pm. 12.20pm. 12.30pm. 12.40pm. 12.50pm. 1.00pm. 1.10pm. 1.20pm. 1.30pm. 1.40pm. 1.50pm. 2.00pm. 2.10pm. 2.20pm. 2.30pm. 2.40pm. 2.50pm. 3.00pm. 3.10pm. 3.20pm. 3.30pm. 3.40pm. 3.50pm. 4.00pm. 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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Elsevier denies talk of Wolters Kluwer bid

Amsterdam (Reuters) — The Dutch publisher Elsevier has denied market speculation of a merger with, or a bid for, Wolters Kluwer. Elsevier owns 33.3 per cent of Wolters Kluwer, whose spokesman declined comment on its remarks. Speculation began after Wolters Kluwer said that Mr Harry Langma, a supervisory board member, would resign. He played a key part in fending off a bid by Elsevier in 1987.

Earlier this week, Elsevier, which has cross-shareholdings with Pearson, the British group, denied a press report that it and Pearson had dropped plans for a full merger, but admitted that a cross-border merger posed major problems.

## Wholesale Fittings falls

Wholesale Fittings' pre-tax profits fell to £2.56 million from £2.98 million in the six months to October on turnover of £30.45 million (£28.77 million). During the period five new depots were opened but did not contribute to profits. Directors are keeping the interim dividend at 3.23p, on earnings per share of 11.8p, down from 13.9p.

## Michelin slowdown

Michelin, the French tyre maker, is to review costs and investments because of slowing demand worldwide. It confirmed a report in *Cote d'Azur*, a financial newspaper, that a letter had been sent to members of its central works committee last week announcing the review.

The newspaper said 1989 group net profit, expected in mid-April, would be slightly under 1988's level of Fr2.37 billion (£247 million), but Michelin declined to corroborate this. Last year it bought Uniroyal Goodrich Tire in the US for \$690 million, making it the world's largest tyre maker.

## Ciba venture for China

Ciba-Geigy, the Swiss chemical firm, is setting up a joint venture in China to make drugs for poultry, sheep and cattle. Shanghai Ciba-Geigy Animal Health will employ 200 local people. Investment costs will total approximately SwFr30 million (£11.9 million). Production at the plant will start at the beginning of 1993.

## Hermes stake for Sumitomo

Sumitomo of Japan has acquired a 1.2 per cent stake in Hermes, the Paris luxury leather goods maker. The stake, bought for a reported Fr98 million (£10.1 million), is part of the 9.7 per cent of Hermes that is not held by the Hermes family. *Tribune de l'Expansion*, the French financial daily, calculated Hermes is worth Fr8 billion.

the general situation can be found by ringing 0898 121220.

Items of company news are on 0898 121221, while the prices of shares actively trading in the market may be found by ringing 0898 121225.

Telephone calls are charged at a rate of 38p per minute in peak times and at 25p per minute at standard times. All charges include value-added tax.

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## Majority-owned subsidiary applies to wind up parent company

## The Bell tolls for Bond empire

From David Tweed, Sydney

Bell Resources, a 60 per cent-owned subsidiary of Bond Corporation Holdings, has applied to the court to wind up its parent company, Bond Resources, which is in liquidation.

The move is likely to trigger a frenzy among local and international creditors who are expected to descend on Bond Group with claims for repayment of loans of more than Aus\$5 billion (£2.34 billion).

Bell Resources filed petitions in the Supreme Court of Western Australia to wind up Bond Corporation, the group flagship, Dalhold Investments, Bond Media, the listed television arm, and Dalhold Nickel Management.

Dalhold Investments owns 60 per cent of Bond Corporation, and Dalhold Nickel owns the Greenvale Nickel refinery in northern Queensland.

Bond Media owns Network 9, the Australia-wide television station, and is 51 per cent owned by Bond Corporation.

Though Bell Resources is a Bond Corporation subsidiary, Bond Corporation lost board control last December to Adelaide Steamship, owned by Mr John Spalvins, a business rival, under pressure from the National Companies and Securities Commission.

Mr Geoff Hill, the merchant banker from Sydney, has the casting vote on the board which has equal representation from Bond Corporation

and Adsteam. Mr Michael Kent, the finance director of Adsteam, who is on the board of Bell Resources, said the board moved to wind up Bond Corporation because it wanted to restore value to Bell Resources.

"I am not in any position to comment on the board action," he said. "I am one director out of five on the board."

"But the whole purpose of taking the action is to restore value."

The move was initiated in the Supreme Court of Western Australia, ironically over a debt of just Aus\$242 million when the bone of contention is

a loan of Aus\$1.2 billion made by Bell Resources to Bond Corporation.

This loan later became a deposit on a brewery sale to Bell Resources that never occurred.

Bond Corporation, the subject of two petitions from Bell Resources, said it would fight in court.

The petitions follow requests for the Bond companies to repay funds owed to Bell Resources under Section 361 of the company's code.

Under the code a company can file a wind-up petition 21 days after the debtor has failed to make the repayment.

The action by Bell Resources comes on top of moves on Thursday by a banking syndicate led by National Australia Bank to wind up Bond Media.

Bell Resources said the petitions against the Dalhold companies and Bond Media were based on the failure of the companies to meet small debts mostly related to transport costs.

The Bell Resources petitions are due to be considered by the WA Supreme Court on March 21.

But it is likely the court battle will begin well before then when Bond Corporation seeks legal protection to stave off repayment demands from



Sinking feeling: John Spalvins, left, has fired a broadside at Alan Bond's flagship company

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its numerous creditors.

Mr Spalvins' troubled association with Bell Resources first came to light in August 1988, when Adsteam revealed it had built up an 11.4 per cent stake in Bell Resources.

Mr Spalvins refused to divulge the reason behind the buying, and by May last year he had lifted his stake to 19.6 per cent.

Adsteam's problem with Bell began soon after when it heard that Bell Resources had channelled Aus\$1.2 billion to its parent, Bond Corporation, in what became a deposit for Bond Corporation's brewing operations.

Mr Spalvins threatened legal action to recover the cash and, on December 1, Adsteam made a daring bid for board control of Bell Resources by nominating Mr Spalvins and four other directors in a bid to "restore the value of the company."

On December 8, Adsteam lodged an application with the WA Supreme Court asking for a receiver to be appointed to Bell Resources.

But this was dropped less than a week later when Mr Bond and Mr Spalvins struck a deal to share two seats each on the Bell Resources board, with an independent chairman, Mr Hill.

Elsewhere, Bond Brewing Holdings, its brewing arm, is the subject of a receivership bid being considered for judgement by the Victorian Supreme Court. The judge is expected to give his verdict towards the end of next week.

Mr Spalvins said: "Management is committed to expanding the portfolio in Britain, America and Europe through organic growth and further acquisitions." There was considerable potential for development of offices, residential property and a hotel on two sites in Portugal.

This year's results were ahead of market expectations and Mr Alan Matthews at Beeson Gregory expects further improved contributions from America over the next two years.

He expects pre-tax profits of £6.6 million for the year to October 1990. The shares are valued at 2p to 2.5p.

Group turnover advanced by 98.7 per cent to £25.7 million. There is an extraordinary cost of £290,000 relating to historic business sales and abortive acquisitions.

Mr Skip Miller, an attorney advising MGM/UA, said: "MGM is entitled to recover the name in Florida and everywhere else in the world."

MGM is also seeking unspecified monetary damages.

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Disney now uses the name in its Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park, opened last May near Orlando, Florida.

In ordering the trial, the Appeals Court rejected Disney's argument that a studio tour could not exist without a production studio.

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## China crisis causes first fall in HK tourism for 18 years

From Lulu Yu, Hong Kong

The number of visitors to Hong Kong fell last year for the first time in 18 years as a result of Peking's bloody suppression of the Chinese pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square last June.

Visitors by the Japanese, the Crown colony's most frequent tourists, fell five per cent, while those by Americans and Europeans fell 17 and nine per cent respectively. Tourism receipts — Hong Kong's third biggest earner of foreign exchange — rose 10 per cent to HK\$36 billion (£2.77 billion), in line with Hong Kong's 1989 average rate of inflation.

Figures from the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) show that visitor arrivals fell 4.1 per cent to 5.4 million last year, after soaring 24 per cent in 1988. Hotel occupancy, which rarely dipped below the 80 per cent level during the last decade,

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Fig



Investors to be offered at least \$70 in value under restructuring plan

# SeaCon set to detail reshape

By Martin Waller

Shareholders in Sea Containers will learn next week of the recapitalization plan which is set to offer them a substantial cash payment after the sale of more than half the company to Temple, the Tipbook-Stena vehicle.

Mr James Sherwood, Sea Containers' president, said the board would meet on Wednesday to consider the financial restructuring. No firm figures have been set, but he was sticking to his plan to offer his shareholders \$70 (£42) or more in value for their shares.

One likely result of the restructuring is that Mr Sherwood and the Sea Containers subsidiaries will increase their stake in the company from its

present level of about 27 per cent.

Shareholders will receive a cash payment while retaining "stub" equity.

This equity will relate to the parts of the business Sea Containers is keeping, and the company will retain its quotation in New York. The president refused to reveal further details before the board meeting.

Temple, jointly owned by Tipbook, the British container group, and Stena, the Swedish shipping line, made its agreed offer for Sea Containers' Sealink ferry services and its dry cargo and tank container operations last month in the final throes of a hostile full

bid. Mr Sherwood said: "The takeover bid is over, that's for sure. There's a 10-year standstill agreement for them not to acquire any shares."

The disposals and recapitalization will be considered by Sea Containers shareholders on March 15 and, if passed, the asset sales completed by the end of the month. The recapitalization will take effect on April 5, by which time Stena will have the Sealink Cross-Channel fleet.

Sea Containers will retain: ● More than half its containers, the specialist and refrigerated activities which, Mr Sherwood says, are the most profitable. ● A fleet of 30 ships, includ-

ing the 12 ferries on the Isle of Wight route and four serving the Isle of Man, five hovercraft and four container ships. There will also be five new car-carrying catamarans, the first to start operating on the Cherbourg run this summer.

The two cross-Channel superferries *Fantasia* and *Fiesta* and Sea Containers' Irish Sea services. ● Property development land at the ports of Heysham, Newhaven and Folkestone.

Sea Containers has 42 per cent of Orient Express, the hotels group. This holding is being transferred to Cipriani Hotels, a new Italian company, which is set to be floated on the Milan stock exchange.

with Sea Containers taking a controlling stake and injecting its own fully-owned hotels, the Cipriani in Venice and two others in Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro.

Future developments for Sea Containers include factories in Brazil and Spain producing speciality containers and entry into the Australian ferry market, linking Melbourne and Tasmania.

The Orient Express deal will bring about \$70 million to Sea Containers. Of the other \$1 billion from the Sealink and containers disposals, some will repay existing debt relating to those assets and some of the rest will go to shareholders.

## MTM bids £12m for Chemoxy

By Sam Parkhouse

An unwelcome £12 million bid approach from MTM to Chemoxy International, a few chemicals group, soaring 102p to 400p yesterday, in line with the cash element of the offer. Chemoxy denounced the bid as "unacceptable" and advised shareholders to ignore it.

MTM is proposing to pay a 50 per cent premium for Chemoxy, based on the 267p price at which its target's shares closed on Thursday.

Dr Anthony Gillham, Chemoxy's managing director, said he could not deny that this premium was "a very significant one", and that the two companies had spoken to each other on "reasonably friendly terms".

But he added: "The bid is unworkable and Chemoxy will be rejecting it. There might well be others interested, but that remains to be seen."

Chemoxy's board controls more than 25 per cent of the share capital, with Barclays Bank the leading institutional holder with 5.6 per cent.

MTM, based on Teesside, is offering 40p cash for every Chemoxy share, or 186 million MTM shares for every 100

Chemoxy. MTM shares traded at 211p yesterday, down 4p.

Mr Richard Lines, MTM chairman, said the offer being made through Robert Fleming, the company's merchant bank adviser, was "full and fair".

MTM wanted to acquire Chemoxy because its commercial strength and established product range would complement its speciality chemicals business. Chemoxy's business, and reputation in, reprocessing recoverable chemical side-stream products was particularly attractive.

Chemoxy made pre-tax profits of £570,000 on a turnover of £7.1 million at its interim stage to September 1989. Robert Fleming says the MTM offer is being made at a price/earnings multiple of 14.5.

Chemicals analysts from James Capel, the broker, described the MTM bid as opportunistic, pointing out that Chemoxy is hopeful about obtaining a multi-million pound grant from Teesside local authority to assist with relocation costs. MTM has all gearing and intends to issue about 5.6 million shares to finance the bid.



'Full and fair bid': Richard Lines, MTM chairman, yesterday

## BIA 'has £3.4m in assets'

By Our City Staff

The receivers at British Island Airways have said it owns about £3.4 million worth of spare parts but little else that can be easily turned into cash to meet its £10 million debts.

Mr Nigel Atkinson, the Touche Ross receiver, says BIA kept a stockpile of stock and spare parts for its BAC 1-11 fleet even though the 13 planes were sold and leased back under the £20 million rescue package last year.

He said the spares and other tangible assets were worth about £3.4 million in the books. In theory, BIA is owed a further "several million pounds" in receivables, but "whether this is collectable is another matter," he said.

BIA sold its fleet of 13 BAC 1-11 and McDonnell Douglas aircraft after Christmas, raising about £13 million. It leased these back and continued operating its scheduled flights out of Gatwick and Manchester to Malta and Sicily.

Lloyds Bank contributed £5 million to the rescue plan, but this was grounded when it pulled out on Thursday and Touche Ross, the accountancy firm, stepped in as receiver.

Mr Atkinson said there was still a possibility of another airline coming in as a partner to rescue BIA. International Leisure Group has ruled itself out as a bidder.

Mr Atkinson said he was not clear as to the whereabouts of the £7 million BIA was supposed to have been left with as working capital under the Lloyds rescue plan.

BIA lost £4.9 million in its last completed six months. Its shares have been suspended at 30p since November.

## DTI to recruit more experts for insurance regulation

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The Department of Trade and Industry is to strengthen its regulation of the insurance industry by raising staff numbers from 75 to 86 by the end of the year.

Experts from outside the Civil Service will be recruited on two- to three-year contracts.

Mr John Redwood, corporate affairs minister, said numbers were being raised to cope with the increasing complexity expected with the single European market, sharper market fluctuations, and takeovers by companies outside the industry and from abroad.

In a faster moving market, a change of management could lead to changed policies over profits, dividends and reserves. The threat of takeovers could also encourage companies to run nearer the margin.

Britain would still have far

fewer insurance regulators than France, with about 200, or Germany, which has 350.

The move follows a review of insurance regulation by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, and Mr Redwood since they came into office — part of a general review in the DTI following the Financial Services Act and criticisms over Barlow Clowes. Its quiet



Redwood: more regulators

approach to the proposed takeover of BAT Industries, which owns two leading British insurers, has been contrasted with US regulatory zeal over BAT's American insurance business.

Mr Redwood said Britain had one of the best home-state insurance regulatory systems in Europe. The department intended to continue concentrating on solvency and policyholder protection without straying into areas such as policy and contract terms regulated abroad.

It had gained adequate powers over insurance companies after the collapse of Vehicle & General and these did not need to be revamped in an equivalent of the FSA.

New intermediate powers to ban individual directors and possibly to insist on more capital may be sought, but these were not urgent, he added.

## Norfolk lagging, says Queens

By Matthew Bond

Queens Moat House, the commercial hotel group, has sent its formal offer document to shareholders in Norfolk Capital Group, the hotel chain for which Queens launched a hostile bid a week ago.

The document emphasizes the performance of Norfolk shares over the last five years. In his letter to Norfolk shareholders, Mr John Baird, Queens chairman, says: "The share price performance of Norfolk over the past five years has been disappointing, having under-performed the

FT-all share index. Over the same period, Queens ordinary shares have significantly outperformed the same index."

The document also alludes to the boardroom split at Norfolk. Two directors, Lady Joseph and Mr Antony Good, who together own 8 per cent of Norfolk shares, conspicuously failed to give their full backing to Mr Peter Eyles, Norfolk's managing director, at the extraordinary meeting on Monday. In his letter Mr Baird says: "The present Norfolk Capital management

does not have the full support of its board. Consequently Queens Moat House believes a change of management is necessary if Norfolk assets are to be managed more effectively and profitably."

Queens is offering two new shares for every five Norfolk shares, valuing each Norfolk share at just over 41p and the company at about £170 million. Queens has 4.45 per cent of Norfolk whose biggest shareholder is Balmoral International. Balmoral owns 13 per cent of Norfolk.

## WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

## Mexico worries over Eastern competition

Competition and co-operation are the theme of this year's World Economic Forum in Switzerland. For President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, it is clear that the main competition comes from Eastern Europe which threatens to divert the attention and cheque books of the rich nations of the West from the economic problems and financial needs of Latin America.

At the conference, he said the changes in Eastern Europe should not divert European concerns inward and away from the rest of the world. Mexico had two-thirds of the population of the whole of Eastern Europe and provided attractive opportunities for foreign investment.

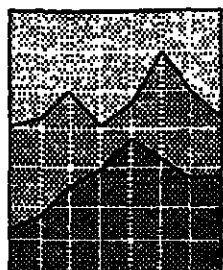
Mexico has done well out of the combined resources of the international financial institutions and the commercial banks. Test bed for the Brady plan for debt relief, Señor Salinas is due to sign the final agreement with Mexico's commercial bank creditors in a few days.

The banks have been less than thrilled with the options offered to them. Some indication of their feelings may be judged from their choice of options: 41 per cent opted for a 35 per cent reduction in principle, 47 per cent for a cut in the interest rate to a fixed 6.25 per cent and only 12 per cent chose to contribute new money.

But President Salinas, like other large Latin American debtors, is concerned that the new fixation with the development demands of Eastern Europe will deny funds for Latin America and other developing nations. "May these splendid signs of change not cloud Europe's global vision, not turn its attention away from our continent — particularly from Mexico — and from other regions of the world," he said.

The combination of economic glasnost and the single market programme

RODNEY LORD in DAVOS



in the EC worries the developing world, which sees not only the flow of finance drying up but barriers going up in industrial markets, or at least not coming down. Europe's 1992, says Señor Salinas, "in the initial stage, could delay a greater liberalization of world markets."

For Mexico's part, it seems to be doing everything the International Monetary Fund or World Bank could possibly want in the way of restructuring its economy. If words could satisfy the bankers, Mexico surely would have no credit rating problems.

Tariffs have come down to an average of 6 per cent, with 80 per cent of trade free of non-tariff restrictions. Trade liberalization has been complemented by foreign investment which, says Señor Salinas, is "indispensable." British Telecom is believed to be among the suitors for the hand of Telmex, Mexico's telecom monopoly.

Deregulation has come to the petrochemical, transport, agriculture and telecom industries and privatization is not far behind. This will cover not only the sale of shares in Telmex but also private money to build roads and other infrastructure.

Señor Salinas, in his first official visit to Europe since becoming president, is carrying a message which one way or another most of his colleagues in the rest of Latin America are echoing.

## Zero inflation 'for stability'

The task for the 1990s is to bring inflation in the US down from its present 4.4-5 per cent to zero, the Federal Reserve Governor Mr Wayne Angell said here.

"A 4½ per cent rate of inflation is unacceptable," he said.

If inflation were brought down, exchange rate stability would follow in its wake, Mr Angell said. This was a necessary, and a sufficient, condition for a stable dollar.

Highly indebted companies would be disadvantaged in the fight against inflation. "Some are going to make it, and some aren't," was Mr Angell's uncompromising message.

Mr Henry Kaufman, the Wall Street guru, speaking to the same audience, was less sanguine about the outlook for currency stability. The dollar, he said, was declining in relative importance as a world reserve currency.

He said: "A dominant reserve currency provides stability; three or four reserve currencies is bound to produce periods of tension."

There were two worries about the high indebtedness of US companies. Firstly, it exposed them in the event of shocks to the world economy, and secondly it made the conduct of monetary policy more difficult, he said.

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## New striker scores at White Hart Lane

## Abingdon in 5% Spurs build-up

By Matthew Bond

Abingdon Management, a private investment company, has built up a 5.03 per cent stake in Tottenham Hotspur, the quoted North London football club where boardroom action often rivals activity on the pitch.

The investment is the brain child of Mr Guy Libby, an Abingdon director, a former chairman of Fulham football club and presently a substantial shareholder in Crystal Palace. Mr Libby — clearly something of a utility player — is also deputy chairman of the television group, TVS Entertainment.

Abingdon has emerged with a declarable stake two months after it asked a number of awkward questions at the club's annual meeting two months ago. But Mr Libby's timing may have been prompted by the £13 million paid to his former club, third division Fulham, simply to vacate its ground. Tottenham is valued by the stock market at £11.9 million. At the annual meeting

Abingdon wanted to know more details about the club's indebtedness and whether it would be seeking shareholder approval for buying and selling players following the club's decision to take its players onto the balance sheet. The £4.5 million sale of Chris Waddle would now be a superclass one transaction, Abingdon argues.

"We would like more information revealed about the finances of Spurs by the Spurs board," said Mr Geoffrey Hamilton-Fairley, Abingdon's managing director.

Control of Spurs lies firmly in the hands of its board. Directors Mr Irving Scholar and Mr Tony Berry, former Blue Arrow chief, have stakes of 23 per cent and 8 per cent respectively, while Mr Paul Bobroff, chairman, has 10 per cent.

But rumours of a split in the Spurs defence were fuelled last September when Mr Bobroff resigned, only to be reinstated a week later. Since then Mr Bobroff has looked like a striker in need of his midfield. Mr Bobroff was un-

ruffled by the new shareholder. "Tottenham welcomes all shareholders," he said.

Abingdon has been a Spurs fan for some time having built up its stake over the last 18 months. But it is saying little about its intentions. "We invested because we feel that football is becoming an increasingly good investment and that Spurs is particularly well placed," said Mr Hamilton-Fairley.

He believes that the publication of the Taylor Report into stadium safety this week can only be good for Spurs. "The Taylor report is a great bonus for Spurs because they are almost all-seater already," he said.

The shares rose 2p on the announcement to close at 118p, well below the peak last year amid rumours of a 4 per cent stake by West German banks. Two months later and Mr Bobroff is little the wiser. "I don't know who they are. We have been trying to get as much information as possible." Plans to disenfranchise the German share stake have, for the time being, been sidelined.



## STOCK MARKET

The number of people on non-farm payrolls soared by 275,000 while the number of manufacturing jobs slid by 112,000, the tenth consecutive monthly decline.

**The prospect of a battle for control of Royal Bank of Scotland sent the shares climbing 11p to 214p—within a whisker of their year's high.**

Dealers have reported heavy overseas buying of the shares since the New Year, fuelling claims that an offer may be on the cards.

But potential bidders could find themselves with a fight on their hands. Banco Santander, one of Spain's biggest banks, has a 13 per cent stake, and is likely to resist any outside bid.

start, saw prices in London respond positively. The FTSE 100 index had risen 7.6 points to 2,353.4 by 4pm on turnover of 435 million shares. In contrast, the FT index of top 30 shares was 3.8

## Foreign bu

after the speech by President FW de Klerk heralding apartheid reforms, including lifting the 30-year ban on the African National Congress (ANC). The president also said Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed ANC leader, would be freed.

Dealers reported strong overseas support for sold

62p to 834p, and St Helens 53p to 843p.

British Aerospace suffered an early fall, touching 530p on the closing only 65p higher at 554p. This followed claims that a confidential report compiled by the European Commission concludes that BAe bought Rover on the cheap.

shares, with investors taking the view that the measures could lead to a world change in attitudes to South Africa.

## ayers push Frankfurt

**Chemoxo International**, the chemicals group, surged 122p to 390p after the surprise 400p-a-share offer from rival **MTM**, valuing the company at £12 million. **MTM's** share price responded with a fall of 6p to 209p.

**Tottenham Hotspur** firmes 2p to 118p on the news that Abingdon Management has built up a stake of 512,000 shares, or 5.03 per cent. Abingdon is a private company run by Mr Guy Libby, director of Crystal Palace and deputy chairman of TVS. A few months ago, Mr Paul Bobroff resigned as chairman of Tottenham after a boardroom split. He was reappointed a few days later, highlighting a power struggle between the biggest shareholders.

**Tiphook**, the container and trailer rental group, rose 5p to 468p. Sea Containers is to approve the offer for its container and ferry operations made by Temple Holdings, a company jointly owned by Tiphook and Stena of Sweden. Stena will acquire the Sealink ferry business and Tiphook the dry container operation.

Next, the troubled fashion retailer, advanced 6p to 99p after the revelation in *The Times* that Sears had acquired a holding

## Michael Clark

**Frankfurt (Reuters)** — A tidal wave of foreign buying, started by new signs that German unification is drawing nearer, pushed West German share prices to new highs. The DAX index of 30 leading

Foreign buying continued to push prices higher and the DAX index gained a total of 52.59 points, or 2.8 per cent, to end at a record 1,910.67. It had risen more than 25 points on Thursday.

Share traders said foreign buying has been a driving force since the start of the year as investors flood into the market believing that West Germany's economy will be one of the main beneficiaries of the liberalization of Eastern Europe.

● Tokyo — Shares closed sharply higher

37,650.15 after firming 17.47 on Thursday. Turnover was a modest 550 million shares, but still up from 500 million on Thursday. "There's still not much energy in the market, but it's looking healthier,"

● **Sydney** — Australia's share market drifted weaker, pulled down by a sell-off among industrials and mounting con-

● **Hong Kong** — Prices of blue chips recovered most of their intra-day losses after active buying in the afternoon. The Hang Seng Index ended only 1.69 points lower at 2,736.55, after plunging more

● **Singapore** — Share prices rose over a broad front in active early trade on selective buying, brokers said. The 30-share *Straits Times* industrial index climbed 15.87 points to 1,544.70.

	Nominal rate	Compounded at this rate		Min./Max. Investment £	Notice	Contact
		25%	40%			
<b>BANKS</b>						
Ordinary Dep A/c	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day	—
Typical						
Fixed Term Deposits	10.53	10.93	9.74	25,000-50,000	1 mth	01-826 1551
Barclays	11.58	11.58	9.25	25,000-50,000	07-826 1551	07-826 1551
	10.57	10.57	8.25	2,500 no max	1 mth	Local
Lloyds	11.01	11.01	8.45	2,500-no max	1 mth	01-260 2920
	10.56	10.56	8.45	10,000-no max	1 mth	01-260 2920
Midland	10.75	10.55	8.65	10,000-no max	1 mth	01-726 1000
	10.75	10.75	8.65	10,000-no max	6 mth	01-726 1000
MidWest	10.75	10.75	8.65	10,000-24,000	6 mth	01-726 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of America	10.84	11.18	8.94	2,500	none	031-442 7777
Bank of Montreal				1,500	none	004 252289
Prime Inc.	9.50	9.84	7.57			
Co-operative	7.10	7.30	5.94	No limit	none	01 620 8543
Westbank	8.25	8.25	7.40	1,000	none	031 995 3747
Lloyds TSBCA	7.00	7.20	5.75	500	none	01-352 2222
Bank of Montreal	8.50	8.94	7.97	2,000	none	
Westbank	9.00	9.31	7.45	500	none	01-374 3374
Special Deposit				2,500	none	031-355 8655
Bank of Montreal	9.75	10.11	8.09	2,000	none	01-610 6000

Wales	9.00	9.00	7.20	seconds	
<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>					
Ordinary Shares					
A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 min	none
Best buy - largest socs:					
North of England	6.90	6.90	5.52	1 min	none
West of Engl.	9.25	9.25	7.40	250 min	30 days
Homesdale Best	10.41	10.41	8.30	500 min	60 day
Chesh & Glouc	11.00	11.00	8.80	10,000 min	100 days
Tewkesbury	11.00	11.00	8.80	20,000 min	6 mths
Best buy - all socs:					
Homesdale Best	10.41	10.41	8.32	500 min	none
Barclays	11.10	11.57	9.25	3,000 min	30 day
Homesdale Best	11.04	11.04	8.63	500 min	60 day
Chesh & Glouc	11.10	11.57	9.25	1,000 min	100 days
Lambeth	10.25	10.51	8.40	250 min	6 mths

Cash/Check Accounts:					
Direct Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	Plates rise
Alliance & Locomotive	6.90	6.90	5.52	500 min	with larger
Nutrition	6.00	6.00	4.80	500 min	balance
Compiled by Cheese du Vain Associates - call 07 404 3706 for further details					
National Savings					
Ordinary A/c*	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	1 day 041-648-4655
Investment A/c*	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	1 mth 041-648-4659
Income Bond*	12.50	9.38	7.50	2,000-23,000	3 mth 0263 69151
30 day 92 1/2	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-1,000	1 day 041-648-4535
34th issue 92 1/2	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-1,000	1 day 041-648-4535
Twenty Yearly	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-200/mth	14 day 01-3894-900
General	5.01	5.01	5.01		
Extension History	5.01	5.01	5.01		
10/100 term	5.01	5.01	5.01		
10/100 term	5.01	5.01	5.01		

	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	4 year	5 year	7 year	10 year
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>										
American Life	12.00	12.00	10.20	5,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from 12/91				
Bankers Life	11.00	11.00	9.35	1,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de				
Providence Nat	10.50	10.50	9.01	1,000 min	3 yrs	Chase de				
Liberty Life	10.50	10.50	9.01	25,000 min	4 yrs	01 044 5768				
Providence Corp	10.50	10.50	8.60	12,000 min	5 yrs	for details				
<b>Hedolitic rates</b>										
NPI (December 88-89)	-47.7%								8 bps	
Bank Base Rates	19.5%								178.00	
Personal Line	24.00%								8.42	
Credit Card	19.5-31%								24.00	
									Nation Line	2062.00

\* 1/29% fee difference below \$500. All rates 1/29% of interest rate less, interest charges for withdrawals of \$100 or less 7.40% (annualized) \$500 to \$10,000 for interest rate less, interest charges for withdrawals of \$100 or less 7.40% (annualized) \$10,000 to \$100,000 for interest rate less, interest charges for withdrawals of \$100 or less 7.40% (annualized) \$100,000 to \$500,000 for interest rate less, interest charges for withdrawals of \$100 or less 7.40% (annualized) \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 for interest rate less, interest charges for withdrawals of \$100 or less 7.40% (annualized) \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 for interest rate less, interest charges for withdrawals of \$100 or less 7.40% (annualized) \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 for interest rate less, interest charges for withdrawals of \$100 or less 7.40% (annualized) \$10,000,000 to \$50,000,000 for interest rate less, interest charges for withdrawals of \$100 or less 7.40% (annualized) \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 for interest rate less, interest 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charges for withdrawals of

## Compiled by KAREN SUCKLEY

# LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>				
Bradford & Bingley 0274 686111	13.90	£50k+	75	Rate after 0.6% cut available for 2 years
Challenger & Glouc. 0452 372572	13.50	negotiable	95	Standard scheme
Halifax 0422 333333	13.95	£20k+	80	Apex scheme
<b>BANKS</b>				
Abbey National 0800 691122	13.90	£50k+	100	
<b>OTHER (FINANCE HOUSE)</b>				
The Mortgage Corp. 0485 754000	13.85	£16k+	95	Rate after 1.5% cut for 3 months

Figures supplied by *Elly's Guides Ltd*. Telephone 0783 880462.

## UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

[illegible]

**The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading**

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Portfolio  
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price presents on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches the figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Northbrook	Water	
2	CKI Gp	Textiles	
3	ABB Kent	Electricals	
4	Bank of Ireland	Banking	
5	Providence	Banking	
6	Yellowhammer	Paper, Print, Adv	
7	Water & Water	Water	
8	Church	Drugs, Stores	
9	First Nat Fin	Banking	
10	Water	Water	
11	LASMO (as)	Property	
12	Midco	Oil/Gas	
13	British Gas (as)	Utilities	
14	Moorefield Estates	Property	
15	Abbey National (as)	Banking	
16	Polly Pock (as)	Food	
17	Wellcome (as)	Pharmaceuticals	
18	ISA Int	Industrial A-D	
19	Cherwell Chem	Industrial A-D	
20	Debenhams Tesco	Property	
21	Nest (as)	Drugs, Stores	
22	Target Res P/P	Oil/Gas	
23	Dawson	Textiles	
24	Rossmore	Property	
25	TV Group	Leisure	
26	Manco	Electricals	
27	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
28	Scot TV	Leisure	
29	Scholar Gp	Electricals	
30	Boony & Hewson	Leisure	
31	Brent Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
32	Ultamar (as)	Oil/Gas	
33	AAH	Industrial A-D	
34	Ward Group	Building, Roads	
35	Beckingham Int	Leisure	
36	RFP	Newspapers, Pub	
37	Anglia TV A	Leisure	
38	Johnson Cleaners	Industrial E-K	
39	MB Gp 7-14 P/P	Industrial E-K	
40	Gleason (MD)	Building, Roads	
41	Blockley	Building, Roads	
42	Racal Elect (as)	Electricals	
43	Brierley Int	Industrial A-D	
44	Swan (as)	Oil/Gas	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

## BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## UNDATED

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## INDEX-LINKED

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## ELECTRICALS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## HOTELS, CATERERS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## S-Z

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## OILS, GAS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## TOBACCO

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## WATER

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## TEXTILES

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## SHOES, LEATHER

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## SHIPPING

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## MINING

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## LEISURE

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## INSURANCE

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## PROPERTY

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## FINANCE, LAND

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## FOODS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## L-R

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## E-K

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## BREWERIES

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## BUILDING, ROADS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## DRAPERY, STORES

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Minor advances

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 29. Dealings end February 9. Contango day February 12. Settlement day February 19.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

## 1989/90 High Low Company Price Bid Offer Change % P/E

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## 1989/90 High Low Company Price Bid Offer Change % P/E

## 1989/90 High Low Company Price Bid Offer Change % P/E

## 19



## THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit Trust Name	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ALPHA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
BETA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
GAMMA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
DELTA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
EPSILON UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ZETA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ETA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
THETA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
IOTA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
KAPPA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
LAMDA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
MU UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
NU UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Xi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omicron UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Pi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
RHO UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Sigma UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Tau UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Upsilon UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Phi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Chi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Psi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omega UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ALPHA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
BETA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
GAMMA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
DELTA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
EPSILON UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ZETA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ETA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
THETA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
IOTA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
KAPPA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
LAMDA UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
MU UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
NU UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Xi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omicron UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Pi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
RHO UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Sigma UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Tau UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Upsilon UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Phi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Chi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Psi UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omega UNIT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15

## UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company Name	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ALPHA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
BETA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
GAMMA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
DELTA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
EPSILON SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ZETA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ETA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
THETA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
IOTA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
KAPPA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
LAMDA SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
MU SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
NU SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Xi SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omicron SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Pi SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
RHO SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Sigma SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Tau SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Upsilon SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Phi SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Chi SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Psi SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omega SECURITIES	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15

## THIRD MARKET

Company Name	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ALPHA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
BETA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
GAMMA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
DELTA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
EPSILON THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ZETA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ETA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
THETA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
IOTA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
KAPPA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
LAMDA THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
MU THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
NU THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Xi THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omicron THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Pi THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
RHO THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Sigma THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Tau THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Upsilon THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Phi THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Chi THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Psi THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omega THIRD MARKET	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Investment Trust Name	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ALPHA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
BETA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
GAMMA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
DELTA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
EPSILON INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ZETA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
ETA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
THETA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
IOTA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
KAPPA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
LAMDA INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
MU INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
NU INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Xi INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omicron INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Pi INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
RHO INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Sigma INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Tau INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Upsilon INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Phi INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Chi INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Psi INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15
Omega INVESTMENT TRUST	10.15	10.20	0.05	10.15

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange Index	Value
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES	1.0000
Other Sterling Rates	1.0000
Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 89.2 (day's range 89.0-89.2)	

## DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Country	Rate
USA	1.0000
Canada	1.0000
Japan	1.0000
Germany	1.0000
France	1.0000
Italy	1.0000
Spain	1.0000
Sweden	1.0000
Norway	1.0000
Denmark	1.0000
Belgium	1.0000
Netherlands	1.0000
Portugal	1.0000
Greece	1.0000
Switzerland	1.0000
Austria	1.0000
Finland	1.0000
South Korea	1.0000
India	1.0000
China	1.0000
India	1.0000
China	1.0000

## MONEY MARKETS

Market	Rate
3 Month Eurodollar	10.15
6 Month Eurodollar	10.20
12 Month Eurodollar	10.25
3 Month US Dollar	10.15
6 Month US Dollar	10.20
12 Month US Dollar	10.25
3 Month Japanese Yen	10.15
6 Month Japanese Yen	10.20
12 Month Japanese Yen	10.25
3 Month Swiss Franc	10.15
6 Month Swiss Franc	10.20
12 Month Swiss Franc	10.25

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Open	High	Low	Close
Three Month ECU	10.15	10.20	10.15	10.15
Three Month Eurodollar	10.15	10.20	10.15	10.15
Three Month Japanese Yen	10.15	10.20	10.15	10.15
Three Month Swiss Franc	10.15	10.20	10.15	10.15
Three Month US Dollar	10.15	10.20	10.15	10.15

## COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price
Oil	10.15
Gold	10.20
Silver	10.25
Copper	10.15
Aluminum	10.20
Zinc	10.25
Lead	10.15
Nickel	10.20
Platinum	10.25
Palladium	10.15
Iron Ore	10.20
Coal	10.25
Wheat	10.15
Corn	10.20
Soybeans	10.25
Wool	10.15
Woolfats	10.20
Woolskins	10.25



Edited by Lindsay Cook

## FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 1990

## INSIDE

## BANKING

## Illicit operators

Banking licences from small island nations are allowing tricksters to open phoney banks in London offering attractive loans which never materialize and taking deposits with the promise of high returns... p24 and p25

## INSURANCE

## Sixties

Tax relief on health insurance premiums for the over-60s starts on April 6. To qualify policy holders must register or even change their contracts... p24

## INVESTMENT

## TRUSTS

## Charges

Low costs used to be a virtue with investment trusts but not any longer... p26

## INSURANCE

## Little joy for names

Storm damage is the latest catastrophe to hit Lloyd's but new members are still prepared to lodge £250,000... p27

## SELF-BUILD

## Home starts

Some 12,000 people built their own homes in 1988. This year high mortgage rates have increased interest... p28

## SOCIETIES

## Merger mania

Four societies announced they were merging this week and the members of three will get cash bonuses. Details... p29



p29

Lindsay Cook reports societies' reaction to independent taxing

## Offshore status sought to stem exodus of savers

The Inland Revenue gave the go-ahead this week to the first building society gross-paid accounts designed for the millions of non-taxpayers that will be created by the change to independent taxation.

But most societies will not be able to follow the Bradford & Bingley and launch such products before independent taxation is introduced on April 6. As a result they are concerned that money will flow from their accounts to banks and investment salesmen selling offshore funds.

The Building Societies Association has made efforts to reduce the impact of composite rate tax (CRT) on society accounts. The tax is deducted from interest on savings and cannot be reclaimed by non-taxpayers.

The Treasury announced in December that CRT would rise from April 6 to 22 per cent. The Building Societies Association wrote to it asking for the rate to be reduced.

"We wrote expressing the view that the tax should be reduced to take account of the large numbers of married women who will no longer be taxpayers," said an association spokesman. "Building societies could lose money as a



Steven Spilsbury of B & B result and we said it was open to legal interpretation and question. The Government wrote back saying that it was standing by its decision."

The Building Societies Commission is seeking amendments to the Building Societies Act to allow societies to operate overseas subsidiaries but the earliest date for a change is late May.

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society has launched two accounts paying 13.5 per cent and 15.2 per cent gross to UK residents through its new company Bradford & Bingley (Douglas). It is writing to

customers in the next month advising them to consider independent taxation. But they will not be sent the brochure on the gross-paid accounts.

Mr Steven Spilsbury, general manager of B & B, said that the society had made it clear in seeking permission to offer the accounts that it did not intend to promote the account actively. He still has to decide whether or not to make the leaflet available at branches. Those investors who respond to the independent taxation letter by asking for a meeting will be given details of the accounts.

The Abbey National, which has a subsidiary in Jersey, had to scrap an independent taxation leaflet suggesting that non-taxpayers should use its offshore accounts following official intervention last autumn.

The Jersey authorities do not want a flood of building society money into the island to take advantage of independent taxation. They prefer to receive large sums from a small number of people. They are also concerned that the Inland Revenue does not clamp down on their paying tax gross if a lot of money

moves to the Channel Islands.

The Britannia Building Society is converting its Isle of Man operation into a formal subsidiary and plans to offer gross-paid accounts to UK residents from next month. The Halifax has a branch on Jersey, which could be converted. It also considering offering a cash unit trust with Standard Life. This would allow investors to claim back any tax deducted from the dividends. The society will publish a leaflet on independent taxation later this month.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has started promoting its time deposits on sums over £50,000, which can be paid gross and is looking at offering a cash unit trust in conjunction with Legal & General.

Building societies report an increase in requests to divide joint savings accounts up into two accounts ready for the tax changes.

The Department of National Savings, which pays 11.75 per cent on its Investment Account and 12.5 per cent on Income Bonds, will begin an advertising campaign in April aimed at married women who will benefit from their gross-paid products.

## One-company bonds banned

Traditional broker bonds, which invest in the funds of one insurance or unit trust group, are to be banned by the Securities and Investments Board, writes Lindsay Cook.

In a policy statement published this week the board made it clear that the majority of the £2 billion of existing broker bonds are not in the best interests of their investors.

SIB wants to see broker bonds that invest in the funds of a number of companies. This gives clients access to all of the market instead of restricting them to the funds of one company. It also reduces the chance of insurance companies and brokers forming cosy arrangements, which benefit them at the expense of investors.

Last July the Department of Trade and Industry had to

remind insurance companies not to give the managers of broker funds more favourable terms than other investors. At that time the board was considering whether or not the existing 3,500 broker bonds had a role at all. Now it feels ready to sanction open and unfettered funds, which are free to invest in the products of more than one investment house. These account for about a quarter of the market at present.

With such funds the intermediary can choose from the market at large and select the best funds of the various managers. If they only use the funds of a single institution it might not have a Japanese fund when the broker felt it appropriate to move into that market, or might be poor performers in that sector. These restrictions mean that

brokers might transfer client's money into a fund that they would not recommend separately from the broker bond.

Insurance companies and unit trust groups will be expected to be accountable ultimately to investors for claims arising out of the negligent or fraudulent management of their funds.

Investors must be informed of the risk strategy being employed and given comparisons so that they can tell how their broker is performing. They will be encouraged to publish their performance records through agencies such as Micropal.

Clients should be told what effect the changes will have so that, for example, they will know that to give the same return as a high interest building society account of say 11 per cent, the fund would

have to achieve growth of 17 per cent or 18 per cent.

SIB is anxious that broker funds should give value for the higher charges that their investors pay than those who invest directly with insurance and unit trust groups. It has accepted representations from brokers that such funds because of their size can be more flexible in their investment policy than the managed funds of insurance companies. Next month the board will be consulting with the industry on the document and a consultative document will be issued.

## SIB rule revision will still leave tied agent clients out in the cold

Revision of the investors compensation fund will still leave clients of tied agents — such as Garston Amhurst, which dealt with unauthorized investments — out in the cold, writes Lindsay Cook.

The Securities and Investments Board this week published details of changes to the scheme, which should come into effect on April 1. These will require insurance companies and building societies to pay towards the costs of the scheme but will not protect the clients of tied agents who sell investment products other than those of the company to which they are tied.

"We don't have the power under the Financial Services Act to bring in anyone who is an exempted person," said Mr Roger Purcell, finance director of SIB.

Tied agents are not covered by the scheme but insurance-based investments are subject to the Policyholders' Protection Act as well as the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organization's indemnity scheme when they are selling products of the insurance company to which they are tied.

Garston Amhurst clients, who were invested in National Financial Management Corporation, have no worries but the future looks bleak for



Unauthorized nameplate at Bristol office of Garston Amhurst

other investors. If a tied agent fails after selling investments unconnected with the company it represents, the investors have no either from the insurance company or the Investors' Compensation Scheme.

As recently as three weeks ago investors were putting money into fixed interest deposits with Garston Amhurst. One investor told regulators and the Official Receiver of an £111,000 investment at the beginning of January. Early estimates of the amount of money missing is £1 million to £3 million.

The Institute of Insurance Brokers this week called upon Lantoro to engage a substantial

number of full-time salaried compliance officers.

"Unfortunately, large numbers of appointed representatives up and down the UK are breaking just about every rule in the Financial Services Act," said Mr Andrew Paddock, the institute's director general.

Lantoro's reprimand to Property Equity & Life this week revealed the case of a tied agent who had broken a watchdog rule by sharing offices with the tied agent of another insurance company. Lantoro said it had come across tied agents sharing offices with independent advisers, occasionally they were husband and wife.

## LEV share demand

Investors, whose shares were held by LEV Investment & Management when it went into liquidation in 1988, were told this week by the liquidators that they will have to pay £55,000 before they can retrieve their share certificates, writes Lindsay Cook.

The liquidator, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, told investors at a meeting on Wednesday that it would be recommending to the High Court that those shareholders whose ownership was not in dispute should be given their

certificates. Investor, Mr Ken Ives, whose £10,000 shareholding is now worth about £4,000 faces paying more than £1,000 for his shares.

Investors were told by Mr Timothy Harris of Coopers Deloitte that the first group of shareholders would get their certificates if they paid a proportion of the costs; a number would have their shares pooled and get part of their value; and people whose shares seemed non-existent would get nothing.

## INDEPENDENT

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\*Source: Micropal Nikkei Dow Index 31/12/89.



## FAMILY MONEY

Tony Hetherington reports on questionable banks registered with small island nations...

## UK vetting fails to stop trickster banking scams

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Banks have a solid reputation in Britain not least because they have a bricks-and-mortar presence on almost every high street in the land.

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Even to open a representative office — an eyes-and-ears presence which does not actually engage in banking — obliges overseas banks to notify the Bank of England followed by a compulsory two months of waiting to discover whether or not the Bank objects.

None of this deters tricksters from opening phoney banks in London. If anything, it attracts the fraudulent, since their victims will see a London address and trust them by assuming they have been vetted by the Bank of England.

First Reserve Bank carried out its business for several months from an address in London's West End, an address which it described as being its United Kingdom Liaison Office.

It offered, according to the bank's advertisements in *Time* magazine, "one of the highest interest rates in the world" and promised "no taxes whatsoever".

First Reserve Bank was registered in the Caribbean island of Montserrat where, according to the bank's li-



Illegal operation: the former offices of the American Business Bank in London's West End

erature, the same rules apply as are imposed on British banks. "Montserrat banks are as sound as the Bank of England," boasted First Reserve.

In fact the London address is a well-known accommodation address. The Montserrat bank was operating illegally in Britain. Cheques received were simply forwarded to an address in Italy, for collection by the man behind the bank, Peter Joseph Fabiano, or Dr Fabiano as he called himself in London.

It is not known how much money was lost to Dr Fabiano before he was scared off by investigators from the Bank of England. At least First Reserve Bank did hold a banking licence, however, which it turned out to be. The same cannot be said of American Business Bank, which has been operating in London for over a year,

completely without authority and in breach of the law. American Business Bank, according to its professionally produced brochure, is part of American Business Securities Limited, registered in the British Virgin Islands. Until recently it operated from a rented office at 19 Stratford Place, a stone's throw from Bond Street in London's West End.

The building is run by British Telecom and provides office space, together with telephone, fax, telex and other services. The bank left Stratford Place about three months ago. Since then it has kept a low profile but the people behind it are now using a private address in Mount Street which is off London's Park Lane.

Enquiries by *The Times* have shown that American Business Bank is not simply operating illegally in the

United Kingdom. The fact is that the bank does not even exist. Mr Glenroy Forbes, an official of the Virgin Islands banking authority said: "Under our Banking Act, we have issued no licence to any bank by the name of American Business Bank. However, there is a company by the name of American Business Securities Limited."

The company proved to be registered at the offices of a local firm of accountants, where nobody was prepared to comment on its unauthorized banking activities.

*The Times* has identified a Mrs Baranowski as operating American Business Bank's London office and distributing its brochures, which offer interest rates of up to 25 per cent. In 1986 Mrs Baranowski was involved in operating a dud loans business called Belinda, which was based in Brussels.

For those who move in the world of now-you-see-them-now-you-don't banks, the number one man to contact is Mr Jerome "Jerry" Schneider.

Working through his WFI Corporation of Beverly Hills, California, Mr Schneider persuades the banking authorities of little-known nations such as Montserrat, Vanuatu and Nauru to issue him with licences which he then sells to anyone with the cash.

Before the recent clamp-down on Montserrat, Mr Schneider was advertising for sale licences for 12 banks granted permits by the island's government. The banks had no physical presence on Montserrat. They were files in a local lawyer's office that had helped Mr Schneider obtain an estimated 100 licences including one for First Reserve Bank, which operated illegally in London.

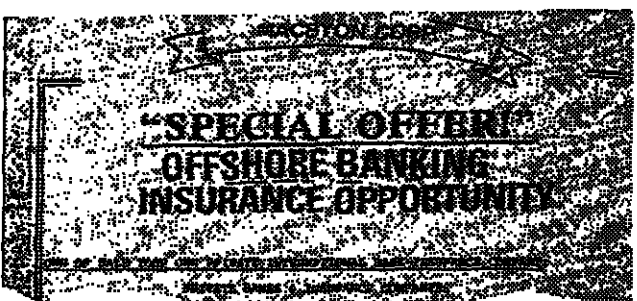
The licences cost \$25,500 each, though Mr Schneider at one point had a sale, offering licences for \$19,500 "for a limited period only".

According to US bank investigators Mr Schneider is currently very active in obtaining licences from the tiny

Pacific states of Nauru and Vanuatu. One international bank regulator complained: "Security laws there are so strict that they won't even tell me the names of the banks he has acquired."

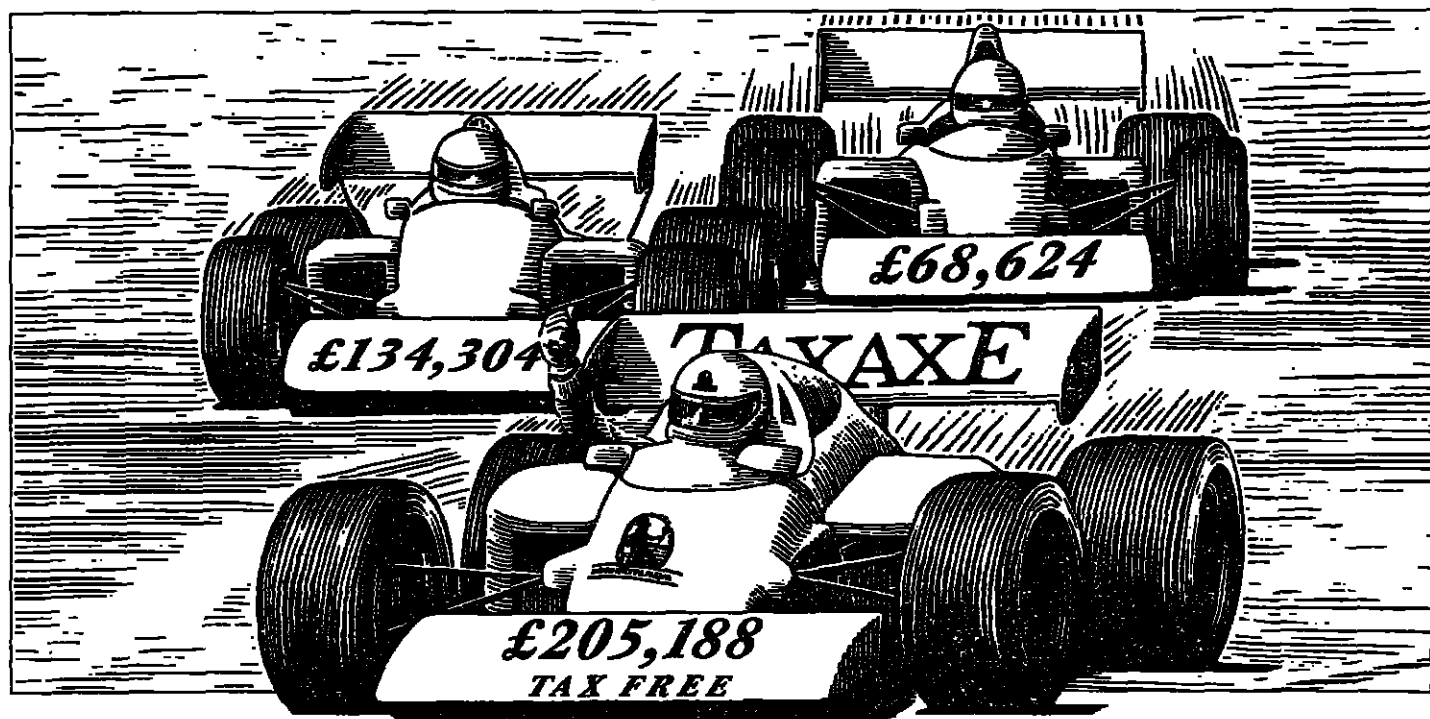
Europe's prime vendor of banking licences is believed to be Dutchman, Dr Milbank Amassis. Discreet advertisements in magazines, such as *Investors' Chronicle*, invite people to contact him through a post office box number in Gibraltar. In fact, he is based in the Netherlands town of Dordrecht from where he has recently offered licences for banks in Nauru or Montserrat for \$12,000 to \$15,000. Insurance companies come cheaper — a fully constituted Nauru or British Virgin Islands business can be had from Dr Amassis for \$5,000.

The cheapest bank to be offered recently, at \$7,500, was advertised in *The Economist*. The advertiser was Nauru International Services, with an address in Fountain Hills, Arizona, USA. This is the address of Corporate Stratum Inc, rebuffed when it approached the Isle of Man government about obtaining banking licences there.



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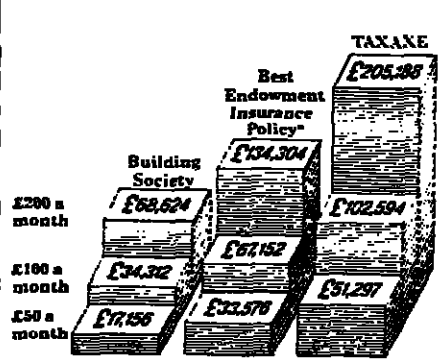
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Health insurance tax  
changes for over-60s

People over 60 years old who have medical insurance will have to register for the benefit and in some cases change to a new style policy before April 6 if they are to get the tax relief on premiums which will be introduced in the new financial year.

A leaflet explaining how tax relief will be given on private medical insurance premiums for the over-60s was published by the Inland Revenue this week to guide existing policyholders and those contemplating taking out cover.

It points out that not all private medical insurance schemes are eligible for tax relief. To qualify a policy or contract should only cover those over 60 and the spouses of people over this age.

Policies which provide cover for cash benefits above £5 a night; dental treatment in a general dental practice; eye tests not carried out in a hospital; plastic surgery for cosmetic reasons; and alternative medicine, such as acupuncture will not qualify for tax relief.

Employers with employees over 60 in their group schemes will not qualify for relief on these. But tax relief will be available for people over 60 paying premiums for themselves and for relatives or friends above 60. In the case of a married couple only one of them needs to be over 60. Anyone covered by the policy or who claims tax relief must



Can he claim tax relief on this stuff?

live in Britain. Policyholders with family contracts will have to change their policy if they are to get tax relief. Premiums on qualifying policies will be paid net of the tax relief in the same way as mortgage interest relief. This means that non-taxpayers will also automatically get the tax relief. Higher rate tax payers will have to claim the additional 15 per cent relief at the end of the tax year by producing a certificate showing the premiums paid.

BUFA, the leading health insurer, has adapted its schemes so that policyholders over 60 can qualify for tax relief. Other insurers are launching policies specifically for older people.

Leaflet IR 103 is available from tax offices and enquiry centres and the Inland Revenue Public Enquiry Room, West Wing, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LB.

Lindsay Cook

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## FAMILY MONEY

... and the ruinous effect they can have on the unwary client  
**Victim goes broke from complex loan fee swindle**

Mr André Sardinha is a record company executive from Essex who wanted to borrow £200,000 but ended up over £30,000 (£18,000) poorer.

His company, Cockpit Records Ltd, put together a business plan to include the purchase of premises in Suffolk. Two top class producers were signed and EMI agreed to distribute his records. All he needed was capital.

Through various intermediaries Mr Sardinha was introduced to United Bank International (UK) Ltd, based on the island of Anguilla in the West Indies. Initially he only asked for £200,000, but UBI announced they would back him to the tune of \$3 million in the form of a letter of credit with interest at 10 per cent over five years.

The cost was an up-front \$30,000 "commitment fee" plus a further £5,000 payable to UBI's man in London. The \$30,000 was transferred to Barclays Bank in the Dutch Antilles, where UBI has its bank accounts, but the \$3 million failed to materialise. Mr Sardinha has since heard



Poorer: André Sardinha lost £18,000 to an Anguillian bank

of other victims of the ploy.

"It is a scam," he said. "Investment projects are promised funds by United Bank but they are not forthcoming. The bank's man in London told me 100 per cent definitely that UBI had funded things before in this country and overseas. The

only requirement it needed was a fee of \$30,000. And paying out \$30,000 to get \$3 million is good business."

"I have lost my house. I am broke because of this affair. I wrote numerous times to the bank chairman and spoke to him on the telephone, but I got nowhere. I still have my

business plan and I am still hoping to find an institution which will back me."

The chairman of United Bank International is a US citizen, Mr Mike de Bella, who lives in Florida. Attempts to contact him this week were unsuccessful. Mr de Bella is well known to the authorities in the USA and the Caribbean. An investigator said: "He purports to have access to funding for venture capital projects. He asks for, say, \$2,000 to consider a project. If you ask for \$10 million, he will offer \$15 million. The victim thinks he can pocket the \$5 million."

"Then he will delay, produce a draft letter of credit, ask for another fee, say 1 per cent, and then give you a letter of credit which nobody will honour. If you sue, he will point out he has honoured the deal by giving you a letter of credit and it is not his fault nobody will honour it."

Officials on Anguilla, where UBI is licensed, say that complaints have been received about the bank and they are being investigated.

**International pressure forces Montserrat to clean up its act**

For bank authorities around the world, the banking industry on the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat has been like watching a nightmare come true. The issuing of bank licences ran totally out of control.

With just 12,000 residents, the island boasted well over 300 authorised banks which was more than one bank for every 40 people. Mainstream banks around the world quickly realised that the only Montserrat banks to be trusted were those which were offshoots of established banks elsewhere. Ordinary people had no access to such information though.

Montserrat is still a British colony with a governor appointed from London, though it is internally self-governing. Last March, under international pressure, Montserrat asked the British police to help investigate allegations against a number of banks. The officer in charge of the

investigation, Mr Dick Marston, found that the vast majority of offences were committed outside Montserrat, though they were only possible because of the ease with which banking licences could be obtained.

"A number of Americans were arrested but allowed to leave the island," he said. "All are being, or will be, proceeded against in the United States."

"I have arrested the ex-attorney general of Montserrat, Mr John Stanley Weeks, who was very prominent in local politics. He has been charged with forgery and uttering forged documents. His trial is due to start on March 5."

Largely as a result of the Scotland Yard team's work, the number of valid Montserrat banking licences has been whittled down to about 110 and 60 of those are about to be cancelled. Control of offshore financial services has

now been removed from local government control and placed in the hands of Mr Christopher Turner, the British governor, despite the opposition of some local politicians.

Among the Montserrat-licensed banks to have attracted the attention of the authorities have been the Bank of Trade & Commerce, the Commonwealth Overseas Bank and the Union Bank of Commerce. The Bank of Trade and Commerce, headed by Canadian Mr Abe Jauz, offered five-year certificates of deposit. It boasted a capital of \$300,000, but enquiries reveal that only \$2 of this was ever paid into the company.

Commonwealth Overseas Bank also enjoyed links in Canada. Originally registered by WFI Corporation, the Californian vendors of banking licences, it was sold to a Mr Michael Mercado, who used it to market certificates of deposit. One customer, a British missionary working in

East Africa, handed over \$15,000 after Mr Mercado personally assured him the bank was sound. Several months ago the bank let its licence lapse and it was struck off. The missionary has no way of recovering his money.

The Vacoover address on the bank's headed notepaper is the office of local lawyer, Mr W Carey Linde. Mr Linde was warned over two years ago by government watchdogs in Ottawa that he had no authority to offer banking services.

Union Bank of Commerce is Montserrat's own proof that there is life after death. Attempts have been made in Europe to obtain a \$4 million loan against the security of a \$5 million certificate of deposit issued by the bank, which is yet another creation of Mr Jerry Schneider's.

Sadly, UBC (paid-up capital \$2) was struck off by the Montserrat authorities six weeks before the date shown on the certificate.

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## FAMILY MONEY

Barbara Ellis looks at how mainstream investors could be sold down the river through charges

## Taking a small man for a long ride

Hints on future strategy offered to investment trusts by one of their leading allies this week are significant for small investors, who will be called on to foot the bill.

In a reversal of some of the trusts' most used marketing arguments, S G Warburg Securities suggests a concentrated campaign to sell through solicitors and accountants as well as brokers, with the trusts following Ivory & Sims' lead in paying up-front commission out of investors' pockets.

Those tactics may seem hard to square with the investment trusts' past denials at the front-end charges of their rivals, the unit trusts, but not for Mr John Korwin-Szymanowski, investment trust research manager at Warburg.

"No front-end load was a classic marketing thing, but you have to face reality," he said. "Financial intermediaries have the ear of the private punter and we think they should be incentivised because that is the way to get the private punter into the trust sector."

The trusts see small investors as the key to a quieter life, with the potential to release them from the 70 per cent dominance of large institu-



tional owners, whose in-house investment departments are for ever interfering with the management of the trusts.

"Private clients always vote with the board," said Mr Korwin-Szymanowski. "All you have to do for them is lay on a bit of booze and a few sandwiches. The private man likes that sort of thing."

In its annual study of the investment trusts published this week, Warburg acknowl-

edges that investment trust "purists" have difficulty with the concept of paying intermediaries for doing something they are obliged to do anyway under the Financial Services Act - giving "best advice" - which to them means recommending investment trusts.

"If we really believe that an investment trust is a better product, we must have a clear conscience if the client is

asked to pay a front-end load to acquire it," says the report. It adds that the front-end load and annual management charge should be no greater than on competitive products.

This gives the investment trusts implicit encouragement to head towards the 5 per cent up-front fee (3 per cent to intermediaries) and 1 to 1.5 per cent management charges imposed by their unit trust rivals. A further departure

from recent trust marketing policy is Warburg's suggestion that trusts remember they were created for wealthier private individuals, not the ordinary man in the street.

"Change or die," said Ms Lesley Renvoize of the Association of Investment Trust Companies in reaction to Warburg, adding that the question of commission payments was a problem to be solved by the intermediaries

rather than trusts. She denied that the trusts were originally intended for wealthier investors, pointing to a 19th century prospectus for the first Foreign & Colonial trust, which mentions the man of "moderate" means.

Both Ms Renvoize and Mr Korwin-Szymanowski warned small investors against paying over the odds for investment trusts - unaccustomed advice from trust specialists, who have spent years explaining how it was that nobody was prepared to pay the full price for their wares.

Unlike unit trusts, priced by formula exactly in line with the value of the shares they hold, investment trusts are themselves quoted companies and priced by what investors are willing to pay - on average 16 per cent less than the value of the trust's assets at present.

However trusts specializing in difficult Far Eastern or European markets have recently traded at substantial premiums to the value of their holdings. Ms Renvoize said investors should not consider paying a premium of above 5 per cent. "I wouldn't pay any premium at all if it were my own money," said Mr Korwin-Szymanowski.

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£34,331 (max)	13.17%	£376.78 per month
£18,124	12.73%	£192.26 per month
£ 8,885	12.28%	£ 90.92 per month
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## Investor clubs as a way of learning to play stock markets



Investment spread: Pauline North serves at Harry Ramsden's

Enquiries are flowing into the Stock Exchange's Investors' Club at the rate of 75 a week these days against just two or three a year ago, writes Barbara Ellis.

Spurred on by water share profits, investors are wanting to find out more about the stockmarket. The Investors' Club was established with classic mistiming in June 1987, almost at the peak of a bull market. It signed up about 1,600 to 1,700 members in its first three months just in time for the October crash.

"People really didn't want to know anything about the Stock Exchange after that. It just died," said a spokeswoman, recalling that the club soon lost over half its members, though about 100 of the drop-outs had recently been in touch again.

For their £15 annual subscription, Investors' Club members receive a quarterly magazine, *The Stock Market*, plus information leaflets and invitations to seminars and investment weekends. The club has used brokers as speakers at its seminars and weekends, but has no information on how much business they drummed up as a result.

"We don't ask our brokers that question," said the spokeswoman. "We say when you are doing your talks you must represent the Stock Exchange, but they are perfectly free to talk to people afterwards. I do know that some of our brokers have met clients through the events."

She stressed that the club did not give advice on particular investments: "We don't give tips. That is down to our brokers. We tell investors how to do it, but not what to buy. We always make it clear at the end of the day the choice is personal and should be discussed with a broker."

The next weekend investment event on the club calendar is scheduled for March 16 to 18 in Brighouse, Yorkshire, and has been named the "Last of the Summer Wine Weekend" in honour of the TV series filmed in the area. Priced at £150 for singles, £250 for two people sharing a room or just £75 for investment content only, the programme is heavy on local colour. It includes a talk on

alternative investment by painter Ashley Jackson who lives in Brighouse, and a visit to Harry Ramsden's in nearby Guiseley for a presentation over a meal of fish and chips on how and why the company went public.

Mr Tony Elder of NIG's Hull office, said there would be no heavy sell from NIG during the weekend. "It is very much up to people if they want to approach us. We would love that but we are not going out through the course of the weekend to convert them into our clients. I don't think the Stock Exchange would be happy."

The National Association of Investment Clubs in Liverpool has recorded no real movement in the number of its affiliates over the past year either. It has 1,500 clubs, each of which brings together no more than 20 people interested in pooling their money to invest as a group.

The National Association is run by its secretary, accountant Chadwick & Co, Tower Building, Water Street, Liverpool L3 1PQ. Tel 051-236 6262. The firm sends out a starter manual costing £7.50 including postage.

There is no connection between the clubs belonging to the National Association and the Stock Exchange Investors' Club, Mr Elder said but his firm deals for several investment clubs, mostly made up of young office workers.

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The number of investment funds which guarantee a return may be back whether the market goes up or down is heading for a peak.

He while the latest figures show a sharp fall in the number of funds which guarantee a return, the number of funds which guarantee a return is heading for a peak.

The latest batch includes the International Securities Investor III, a new version of the International Securities Investor III, a new version of the International Securities Investor III.

Lord General has approved the same idea to launch a new fund, but he has launched a separate fund.

The funds gamble on a rise in the price of the world's stockmarkets and invest in high-risk stocks to cover the risk.

They should give investors a high return if all goes well and a low return if the markets crash.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Storm warning at Lloyd's

Storm damage is the latest catastrophe to hit Lloyd's of London. About 4,000 members known as "Names" have resigned in the last two years and more are likely to follow in the wake of a surge in claims and growing competition from the large insurance companies.

The issue is one of concern to the underwriters and brokers who cross paths each day, placing risks on everything from shipping and aviation to cars and home contents. It affects the 28,000 Names who put up the money which allows Lloyd's to exist. But still newcomers are attracted by the cachet of membership and hoped-for profits.

The Names have to lodge at least £250,000 each in cash or assets to be eligible for membership. They can spread their investment over several syndicates or group them under one roof. But if things go wrong, they face unlimited liability.

Mr Shaun Parsons is one of a handful of Names lucky enough to have made a profit year after year. After becoming a member in 1976, he gradually increased his investment to 20 syndicates, and so far has not made a loss.

Mr Parsons, a group finance director, said: "I am what you would call a satisfied customer. This is a high-risk trading venture as you accept unlimited personal liability. But if all goes well, you can make your money work twice, investing it elsewhere and taking a profit."

Mr Parsons reckons that much of the skill of Lloyd's is choosing the right managing agent to act for you.

He said: "There are all sorts of things that can go wrong within a syndicate. It took me three years to find a members' agent I considered suitable."

These days, even finding the best managing agent may no longer be enough. Lloyd's is reeling from an unprecedented run of disasters, from earthquakes to explosions. It is still counting the cost of the Piper Alpha tragedy and the latest storm.

The Council of Lloyd's, drawn from its working mem-

bers, would like to see a contingency fund set up to ward off the threat of "the big one" — a disaster so costly that it would seal Lloyd's fate once and for all. This would also help bring Lloyd's into line with the Continent, where "disaster reserves" are already in place.

Mr Murray Lawrence, the chairman, said: "We accept the fact that we are going to have catastrophes. What we need is the reserves and solvency to counter the threat."

The number of resignations in the last two years have led some observers to wonder whether Lloyd's will survive. Mr Lawrence sees the fall in numbers as a "necessary shake-out" rather than a loss.

He added: "What we have is fewer Names writing the same amount of business. It's a matter of bigger, stronger Names with a better spread of syndicates, making them less susceptible to any one syndicate going wrong."

He also accused the Government of taking Lloyd's for granted, even though it accounts for as much as 50 per cent of Britain's invisible earnings.

Meanwhile, far below the Council chambers, brokers and underwriters get on with the business in hand. The chain of events which lead to Lloyd's often begins when a local insurance broker decides he cannot take on a certain risk. He will approach a Lloyd's broker, who in turn puts it to various underwriters, working from "boxes" in the building.

One risk may be divided between Lloyd's and any number of the world's leading insurance groups, creating a complex web of reinsurance.

In this way, home contents insurance and motor policies rub shoulders with the weird and exotic — insuring a satellite in space, perhaps, or putting a value on a wine taster's palate. What the brokers of 1690, who began Lloyd's in local coffee houses, would make of it all is anyone's guess.

Jon Ashworth



Protected by profit: Shaun Parsons, a 'satisfied customer', has never made a loss at Lloyd's

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# IF YOU'RE A MIDLAND CUSTOMER YOU CAN SWITCH FOR NOTHING.

## Evolution of the 'money-back' bond continues

The number of investment bonds which guarantee your money back whether markets go up or down is heading for a peak.

But while the latest issues promise great things for investors, sharp falls on world stockmarkets have taken some of the shine off last year's star performers.

The latest batch includes Albany International's Secure IndexBeater III, a new version of Midas, from Johnson Fry, and Capital Guarantee Bond, from Scottish Provident.

Legal & General has applied the same idea to its pensions and unit trusts, but has not launched a separate bond.

The bonds gamble on a rise in one of the world's stockmarkets and invest in high-yielding stock to cover the risk of a fall.

They should give investors a high return if all goes well and protect all, or most, of the money if the markets crash.

Secure IndexBeater III is again backing a rise in Japan's Nikkei index. It hopes to guarantee a return of between 130 per cent and 140 per cent on any rise in the index, after the 6 per cent management fee, while returning 95 per cent of the money if things go wrong.

The first Secure IndexBeater took in £6.25 million from 800 investors when launched last July as the Nikkei touched 34,090 points. IndexBeater II, in October, attracted more than £18 million from 2,300 investors. By

now, the Nikkei had climbed to 35,260. It now stands above 37,000.

Mr Rodney Churchill, Albany Life's broker-director, said investors were still ahead despite the Japanese downturn, adding: "The new volatility may have frightened many investors off, but they have the security of the 95 per cent safety net."

Two new versions of Midas, giving a choice of the American or Japanese markets, will be launched on Monday. Midas 90 will protect 90 per cent of any investment, with the chance of better returns, while Midas 100 promises less of an upside, with 100 per cent protection. Last year, Midas attracted a meagre £12.5 million from investors. However, Mr Michael Fletcher, Johnson Fry's marketing director, says they still have a role to play in a core investment portfolio.

Scottish Provident chose the FT-SE 100 index and guarantees at least 100 per cent back over three years, rather than one. The Capital Guarantee Bond uses a unit-linked fund investing in British blue-chip stocks.

All money received by February 9 is guaranteed to be allocated to the bond and subscriptions are open until February 23. The minimum investment is £5,000, there is a 5 per cent bid/offer spread, and a 1 per cent annual management fee. Secure IndexBeater III closes on February 8. Midas III is open until March 16.

As a shrewd investor, you'll want to be able to move with the markets.

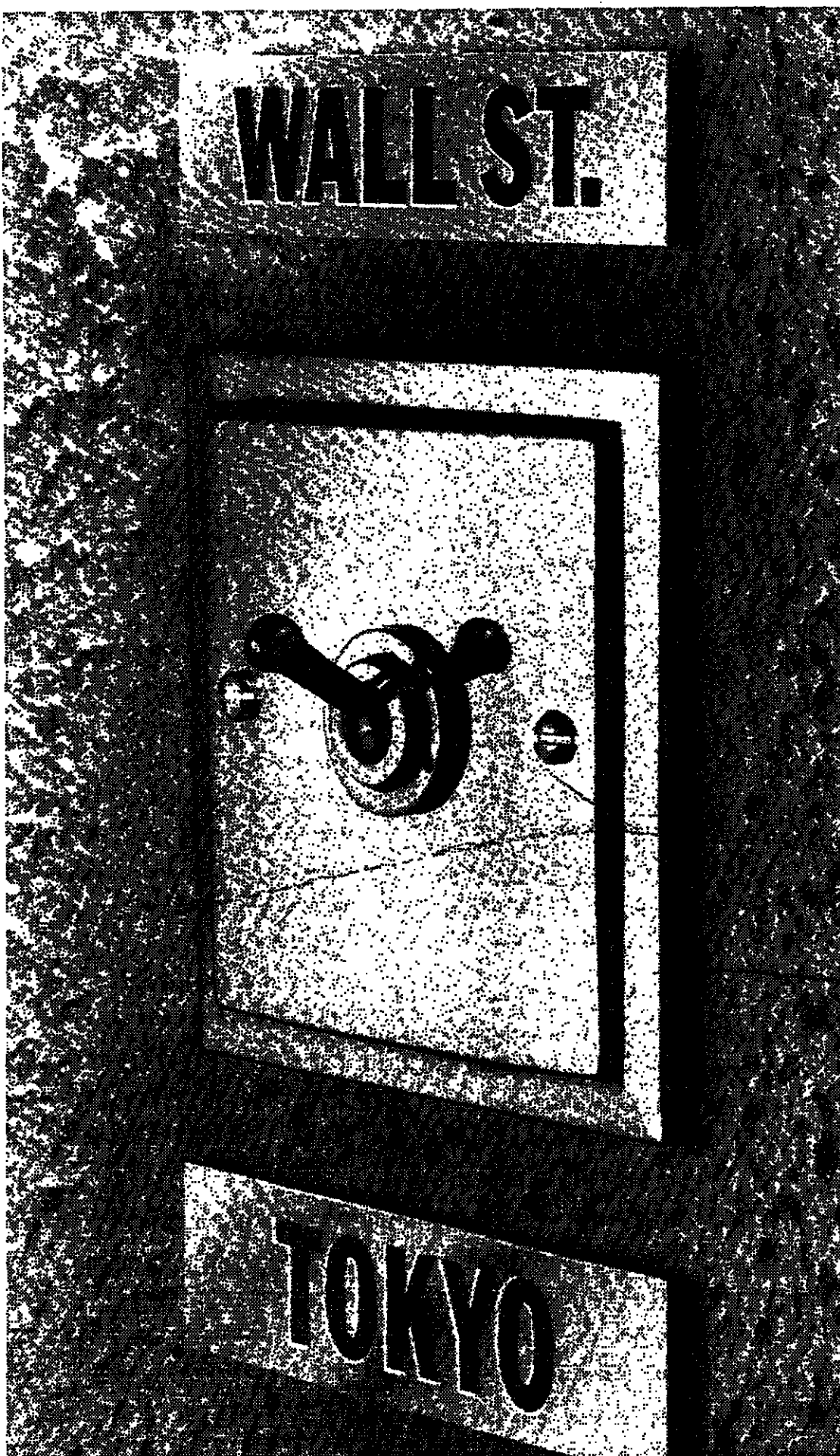
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FAMILY MONEY

# Bonus time as building societies amalgamate

Lindsay Cook notes the trend of offering windfall gains to members of small societies to win their votes in takeovers

The bonuses to be paid out to members of three building societies, if two mergers announced this week go ahead, will sharpen the appetite for building society investors for windfall gains as the number of mergers accelerates.

Such payouts were first proposed by the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society for the members of the Guardian Building Society last year in order to win the votes of members following the disbursement of 100 free shares to all members of the Abbey National.

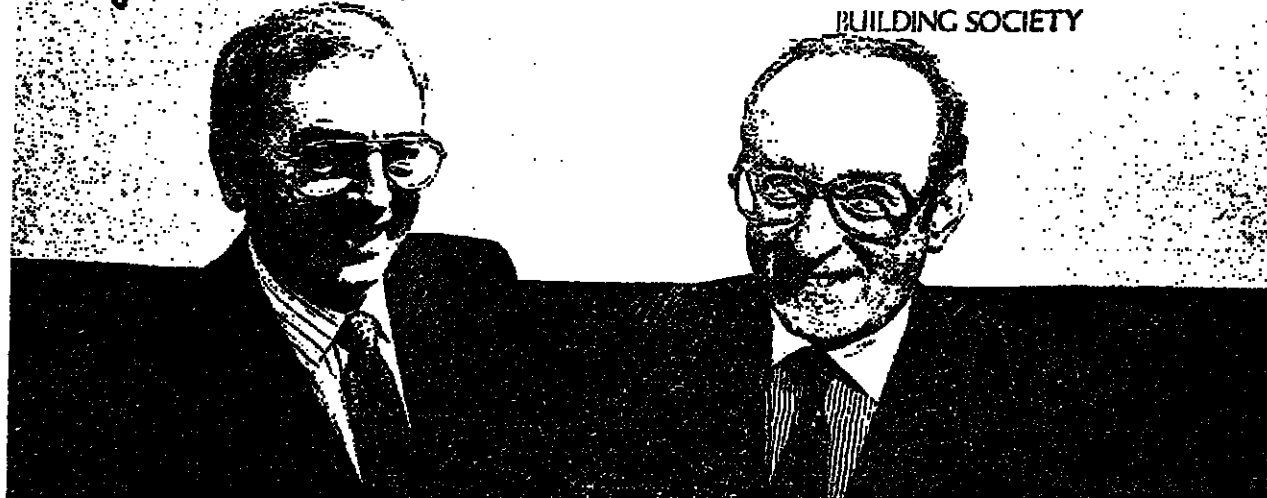
The 430,000 savers of the Regency & West of England and Portman Wessex societies are to receive a four per cent bonus, after tax, up to a £100 limit per account. The bonus will be paid in October if members vote in favour in April and the Building Societies Commission sanctions the merger.

Borrowers will have a 1 per cent reduction on their mortgage payments for three months up to a maximum of £100. In all, the societies will pay out £21.5 million and members will receive £17.5 million after tax.

Investors with the Frome Selwood are to receive two per cent with no upper limit, and

PORTMAN WESSEX BUILDING SOCIETY

REGENCY WEST of ENGLAND BUILDING SOCIETY



Mood to merge: Gerry Aiken (left) Portman Wessex general manager, soon to join Ken Culley's Regency & West of England

borrowers will have a 0.5 per cent reduction from July 1 to December 31 if the merger is agreed by members in May.

However, investors and borrowers with the Stroud and Swindon, which is taking the Frome over, will receive nothing.

"The bonus is intended to equalize the reserves of the two societies," explained Mr Richard Payne, the chief executive of the Stroud and Swindon.

The 42,000 borrowers from the Regency should also benefit from the merger in the long

term. They are currently paying a basic rate of 14.75 per cent compared with the Portman Wessex rate of 14.5 per cent.

"These will be brought into line," says the Regency's chief executive, Mr Ken Culley, who will hold the same position with the new society, which will be called the Portman.

The societies will have to decide which insurance company they are to be tied to and which cash dispenser network to stay with. The Regency is tied to Legal & General and was the first building society

to gain access to the Barclays cash dispenser network. The Portman Wessex is tied to Scottish Life and in the Link and Matrix dispenser network.

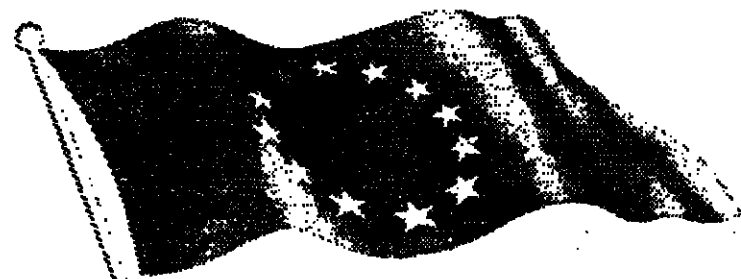
The Regency and West of England Building Society is already the result of mergers of eight societies - the last one taking place in May 1989. The Portman Wessex is just two societies and was formed on July 31 1989.

These mergers show the pace with which smaller societies are amalgamating. At the beginning of the century there

were 2,000 building societies and soon the total will be less than 100.

The new Portman will be 14th in size and one of the largest regional societies. It is expected many more mergers will take place in the coming months among smaller societies and involving windfall bonuses for members.

National Counties has the highest reserve ratio at more than 20 per cent but the Mansfield at 13.7 per cent and Fenit at 10 per cent could provide healthy bonuses if they are taken over.



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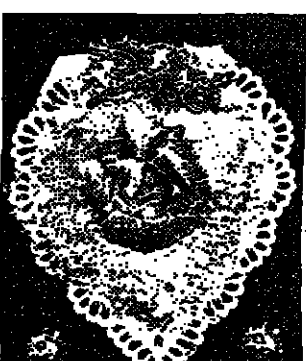
## Valentines daze as cards inflation hits infatuation

Love is for sale in London next month when Christie's auction Valentine cards, which are expected to fetch from £20 to £160 apiece.

A total of 65 lots of one to 150 bygone cards will go under the hammer at the company's South Kensington salerooms on February 8. At a similar sale 12 months ago 98 per cent of the material offered was sold and the proceeds totalled just under £66,000.

Prices for old Valentines have yet to rival those commanded by love letters - the jewel-encrusted card bestowed on Maria Callas by Aristotle Onassis was a rare exception - £180,000 when new - but there are signs of inflation.

Sothebys, which included Valentines in a December sale, said values were in the range £400 to £600 per card. The majority reaching the market, however, are still affordable by amateur buyers keen to start collecting - as well as by



husbands wanting to give their wives an especially memorable love-token.

The other main charm of Valentines in this keepsake category is their visual appeal. The Christie's catalogue features silken hearts, paper lace borders that copy fabric lace in every intricate detail, pressed flowers, gilding, silvering and embossing. Amassed from various existing collections these belong chiefly to the 19th century, which saw a

gradual evolution from subtlety to ornateness and then mass-produced vulgarity.

One prize specimen, not for disposal, depicts the less high-minded side of "Victorian values" in its portrayal of a caricature fat lady astride a donkey and a caption ending: "We... never yet did view so glorious an ass."

A further notable category comprises "dressed" Valentines featuring fabric collages of children.

One delightful survivor from the 1920s shows a bathing-suited gent who can be made to enter a beach tent and emerge with a young pin-up.

Having survived a 1941 ban by the Minister of Supply, Lord Beaverbrook - his economy edict was swiftly overturned by Mr Harold MacMillan - love cards are now into their heyday; over 20 million are sent annually.

Charles Kersley

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Gillian Bowditch looks at what is in store on the shopping front

## Sears salutes the 1990s with a smile

The Eighties spending boom is over and will make way for the growth of specialist niche stores

which will change the nature of the high street, according to Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, of Sears

Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, Britain's third largest stores group, is one of the few retailers pleased to see the end of the consumer boom of the mid-1980s, which saw the creation of a host of new shops on the high street.

"When you get that sort of boom, it ultimately means bust. I am not looking forward to it happening again," he said.

But Mr Maitland Smith believes retailers have learnt a lesson from the insanity of the Eighties shopping environment, albeit a hard one.

Shopping this decade will be about service and value for money, says Mr Maitland Smith. "We teach our sales staff to smile and know the product." While some retailers will find it extremely difficult to survive, others will find opportunities.

He predicts the arrival of

new specialist shops sourcing exclusively in one country — shops which do not attempt to cater for everyone, but know their market.

Shoppers in the 1990s will also be less free with their spending and will think more about value for money, according to Mr Maitland Smith, who confesses to being bewildered by the British shopper.

He said: "Bottled water is more expensive per litre than petrol. But people walk out of Selfridges quite happily with boxes full of bottled water and yet complain bitterly about the price of petrol."

The Sears empire, which includes Selfridges, Miss Selfridge, Wallis and Dolcis, has suffered with the rest of the British retail sector. Pre-tax profits of £273 million in 1988 are expected to fall to £205 million when the 1989

figures are revealed, and UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, recently downgraded its profit forecast for 1990 to £180 million, although others are more optimistic.

But unlike other retailers, Sears is sound and stable enough to withstand the downturn and there will be none of the enforced sell-offs which have characterized other retailers with huge debts in recent months.

Indeed, Mr Maitland Smith has his eyes firmly on the future. The revelation that Sears has built up small stakes in a number of retailers, including a 1.35 per cent stake in Next, indicates that the group is still on the lookout for opportunities in the 1990s.

Sears' borrowings are low; it has a gearing ratio of about 10 per cent and has not made an acquisition since it sold William Hill, the betting chain, to Grand Metropolitan for £331 million in cash a year ago.

One business Sears has been interested in for quite some time is Grattan, the mail order business which is part of Next. Mr David Jones, who has confirmed the stake Sears has taken in his business, built up Grattan and is now reshaping Next.

Analysts speculate that he may be prepared to sell Grattan to concentrate on the Next retail chain. Next has debts of about £150 million, and if it could achieve a price of £250 million or more for Grattan, the retail side of the business would be greatly strengthened.

For Sears, the merger of Grattan with Freemans, its own mail order business, would make great sense. The savings which could be achieved if Freemans' turnover was combined with Grattan's warehousing would be enormous. Next has just spent £45 million on a new warehouse which has some of the most advanced systems in Europe.

Mr Michael Pickard, chief executive of Sears, came from



Glad to see the back of the Eighties boom: Geoffrey Maitland Smith is looking forward to a decade of quality and service

shops where the proprietors own the freehold to their shop. He said: "People who own their shops have seen them shoot up in value over the last 10 years. Some will decide to sell up and retire."

Sears has decided to reorganize its shoe division into four groups, each run by a single managing director reporting to Mr Chris Mansland, the managing director of British Shoe.

Freeman Hardy Willis, Trueform, Shoe City, Curtiss and Shoe Express will form the family budget division, where the average price for a pair of shoes will be £11. There will be three formats targeting the 15 to 30 age group: Freeman Hardy Willis in prime sites, Shoe Express in secondary locations, and Shoe City out of town.

Saxone and Manfield will be merged under the Saxone name and will serve the quality middle market, selling shoes at an average price of £25.

The fashion division will include Bertie, Dolcis and Cable & Co and will target the 16 to 25 age group. All three names will be kept and the average shoe price will range from £20 at Dolcis to about £50 at Cable.

A new chain of shops aimed at 40 year olds and above will be formed using the Manfield name. There will be 30 shops and the average shoe price will be £30. The Manfield management will also be responsible for the group's \$50 in-store concessions.

The parts of the Sears empire which he finds particularly exciting are Olympus, the sportswear group, and Adams, the children's shops. Olympus, which has more than 100 shops and 20 concessions, and Adams, which has 200 shops, are growing rapidly. At the half year stage, these businesses, with Miss Selfridge, were showing like-for-like sales growth of more than 10 per cent.

Expansion into Europe is another possibility for Sears. It is selling shoes in Holland and West Germany, and Mr Maitland Smith is under no illusions about 1992. "If we do not expand into Europe, the European retailers will expand in the UK," he said.



Remodelling Next: David Jones may sell Grattan business

Mr Maitland Smith said: "Freemans has the highest sales per agent of any catalogue group in the country. It is the third largest and is improving all the time. Like-for-like sales are comfortably up on the previous year." He also agrees that Freemans is an area in which he is keen to develop.

Sears would be unlikely to make another hostile bid. Mr Maitland Smith says of the Freemans experience that staff tend to become demoralized and it takes time to integrate a hostile acquisition. But he does believe opportunities exist in British retailing.

"We are looking at a couple of things," he said, but would

not be drawn further. Nothing seems imminent.

Mr Maitland Smith and Mr Michael Pickard, the group's chief executive, have had their hands full in recent months reshaping the British Shoe Corporation, one of the largest parts of Sears' empire.

The whole division, which includes Saxone, Manfield, Dolcis, Freeman Hardy Willis and Bertie, has been reorganized and 200 shops are to be closed.

There are many who think the reorganization is long overdue. Mr Maitland Smith says it has taken almost four months to work out the strategy. The reorganization has come about because of the

growth in fashion and department stores selling shoes.

Sears has 800 concessions for its shoes in non-shoe shops such as Top Shop, Dorothy Perkins, Miss Selfridge and Debenhams. Selfridges department store also has a large shoe department and the growth in out-of-town retail centres where Sears runs Shoe City have all taken trade away from the traditional high street shoe shops.

Mr Maitland Smith says he believes there will be further rationalization of shoe shops in the high street and believes that about 1,000 will disappear over the next few years, but he adds that many of these will be independent

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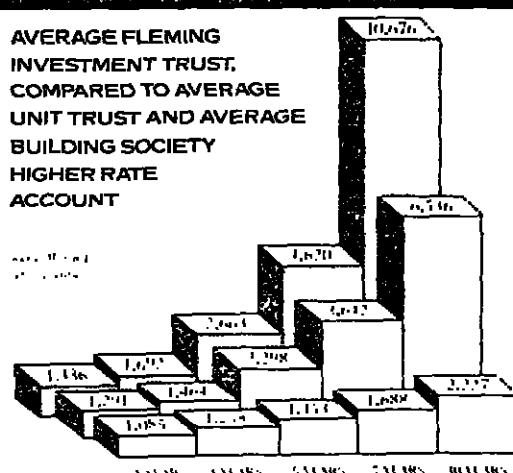
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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 1990

# After trudging 2,000 miles through Antarctic wastes to the Pole, they were refused even a hot shower

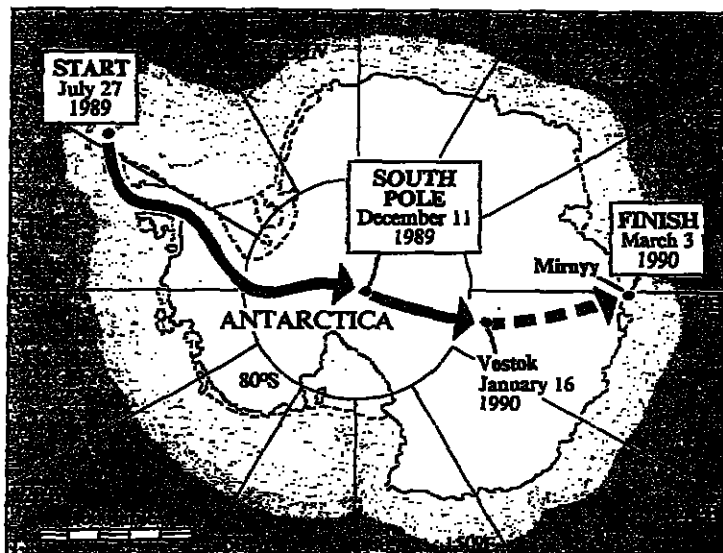
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN STETSON / GORDON WILTSIE



By Alan Franks

Six men of the 1990 International Trans-Antarctica Expedition are locked into a grim battle with the elements on the final leg of their bid to become the first across the 4,000-mile wasteland by dog sled. They are now deep into the heavily crevassed terrain between the remote Soviet bases at Vostok and Mirny on the Davis Sea, the finishing post of a seven-month odyssey in which the men and their 30 dogs are covering the distance of a marathon each day.

The £4 million mission, supported by more than 100 private companies, was organized as an exercise in international co-operation, and to draw attention to the resources and vulnerability of the icebound continent. It has nearly been called off at various stages along the way because of injury, accident and weather conditions so bad that the team has often spent two hours a day digging its huskies and sleds from the snow. In the early stages, as the men forged inland from the peninsula, they spent 13 days trapped in their tents as a two-month storm



brought freezing, 100mph winds. During the journey, they have maintained contact with the outside world through a small device which transmits brief messages via satellite to the expedition's American and European headquarters in Minnesota and Paris. "Urgent please," they signalled from the so-called Area of Inaccessibility, west of the Soviet base.

"Need location to find Vostok." When they found the base, they received an ecstatic reception from the Soviet staff who live there throughout the year and who made their arrival an excuse for a lavish party. It was a welcome contrast to the team's arrival at the South Pole in mid-December.

There, the Americans, adhering strictly to the rules, offered the travellers a coffee but refused them a hot shower after a perilous journey of almost 2,000 miles that took four and a half months.

The six nations taking part are Britain, America, France, Japan, China and the Soviet Union. Apart from the self-confessed element of sheer adventure, the team has been conducting research on glaciology and pollution, ozone data, meteorology, nutrition and thermoregulation. Thousands of schools in America, France, Britain and Australia have been following its progress.

The landscape at the present stage of the expedition has been sculpted into fantastic shapes by the gale-force wind, with 6ft sagrugi, or waves of snow, looming out of the gloom and overturning the sleds. This was happening several times a day until the dogs somehow found a way to sense their coming and began to take avoiding action.

The animals are gaining weight, but the men are losing it. They have shed up to 10lb each and cut lean, powerful and passionately determined figures as, with the

Continued overleaf



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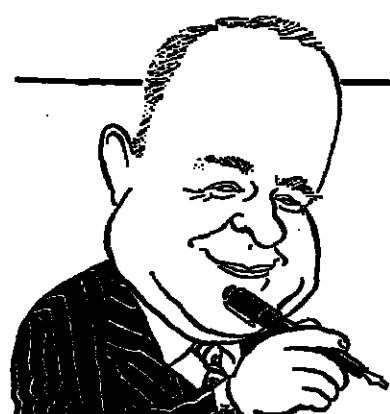
TM 7



Smiles of success: after 2,000 perilous, weary miles, the six-man team got coffee - and the cold shoulder - from the Americans at the South Pole



THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



# Doggone on namedropping

**W**e're into serious namedropping this week. A prince, a poet laureate, dames, knights, musicians, ballerinas, nonagenarians, octogenarians, newspaper editors, all human life is here. On one of those recent gale days, John Dankworth and Cleo Laine hosted their annual Wavendon All Music Awards - presented by their most loyal supporter, Princess Margaret.

More than once she had to reassure herself that the scaffolding on the building next to the Banqueting Hall, in Whitehall, was not going to attack us as we lunched a few feet away from the scene of Charles I's execution.

What with that, and her plane being struck by lightning at Garwick, the weather was not too kind to HRH this week.

Ronnie Scott, an award-winner along with George Shearing, Sir Michael Tippett, George Martin, John Mancini, Benny Green (happily restored to Radio 2), and Cantabile, told a terrible tale of the last big blow. Not known for his true stories, he swears a friend lost his panicked dog on that awful evening. Early next morning the hound returned with the neighbour's dead pet rabbit proudly held between his teeth. Scott's friend guiltily washed and blow-dried the rabbit, scrambled over the garden wall and replaced it in its pen.

Later he was visited by the neighbour, visibly distressed. He asked if all was well. "No," said the neighbour, "just as our son was getting over the death of his pet rabbit, which we buried yesterday, some swine's dug it up, washed it and put it back in the pen."

Cleo sang a cabaret after lunch, including two Arthur Young settings of Shakespeare lyrics. Princess Margaret and Steve Race learnedly debated if this might be the first time they had been heard in that setting since the days of Inigo Jones.

I forgot to check with John a story which Neil Shand told me. The Dankworths once performed at Carnegie Hall in a classy promotion for a new Japanese car. Also on the bill were an infant prodigy and

Itzhak Perlman, who caused some confusion among the sponsors when he announced that his first piece was by Kreisler.

THE NEXT day it was the turn of the ballet. Nadia Nerina celebrated Sir Kenneth Macmillan's sixtieth birthday for him at the Berkeley Hotel. As well as Lady Macmillan she had corralled Dame Ninette de Valois, Irina Baronova, Alexander Grant, John Lanchbery, Nicholas Georgiadis and Yolande Sonnabend for a menu divided into three acts. Lanchbery has a Beecham story which I had not heard before. He was present when Sir Thomas overheard Sir Henry Wood complaining, and muttered, "Oh dear, more whines from the Wood."

Dame Ninette was in fine form. We had a spirited disagreement about the future of Drury Lane, which she thinks should stop being a home for musical comedy whenever the ballet needs it.

Touching on the competition between ballet and opera inside the Royal Opera House, she recalled an old visiting Russian dancer asking: "Between opera and ballet here in England, is also Montagues and Capulets?" When she assured him that it was indeed, he went away much heartened at finding this phenomenon universal. She also remembered a wartime tour of *Swan Lake* in Scotland when a woman berated her for cutting *The Dying Swan*, never in the ballet anyway.

Madame Baronova's reminiscences were more personal - like her elopement with her first husband, Jerry Sevastianov was one of Colonel de Basil's managers and Baronova, still a baby ballerina, was restless under her parents' strict discipline.

As the company moved from Cleveland to Cincinnati, de Basil arranged for her to speed ahead with her beau straight from her performance. By the time parents and company caught up with them in Cincinnati, the marriage was a *fait accompli*. Baronova insists she was so naive on her wedding night she kept her husband waiting while she put her hair in curlers.

Patrick Lichfield, entertaining



two stylish blondes at the next table, looked surprised to see a stately *pas de deux* danced between the tables by Alexander Grant and Dame Ninette. In fact, she had an ankle cramp and he was showing off the excellence of his hip operation.

Nerina produced a nostalgic birthday present for Sir Kenneth: informal photographs of the Sadler's Wells company at Cambridge in 1947 with Nadia herself, John Cranko, Michael Boulton and

Anne Heaton. The shots suggested that, at 16, Sir Kenneth had the longest legs in showbusiness.

NOSTALGIA RAN riot at the Duchess Theatre on Sunday night when The Players celebrated no particular anniversary of Sandy Wilson's *The Boyfriend*, which opened 37 years ago. They are about to move back to their own theatre underneath the Hungerford Arches by Charing Cross, and Maria

Charles organized the gala evening as a fund-raiser. She was one of 11 of the original cast on parade, and the other five all have long associations. It would be ungallant to total up the ages, but they passed the 1,000 mark.

Age obviously has nothing to do with energy. Billed as a concert version, it was slickly and imaginatively staged, and high kicks and charlestons were two-a-penny. The score sounded as fresh as it did in 1953, and the evening offered more fun than most these days.

Sandy Wilson presided benignly and revealed that The Players managers initially gave him £25 down to write *The Boyfriend* and another £25 on completion. When he played it to them they heard it glumly and agreed that, as they'd paid out such a large sum of money, they would have to put it on.

Here is a chance to do something useful. When Sandy Wilson was up at Oxford he wrote several ETC revues - notably *High, Broad and Corny*, and *Ritz, Regal and Super* (after the three popular Oxford cinemas). Now old Oxfordians write to him asking for copies of the numbers, most of which he has not kept and cannot remember.

My man in Deal recalls a parody of *Oklahoma* in which the title song was translated from "Oklahoma, okay" into "Stanley Parker, BAI", and "Don't throw bouquets at me" became something like, "Don't droop your hands at me/Or make too much noise tonight/Don't praise all the boys in sight/People will say that we act".

He also remembers an early Ken Tynan song, "My ma's gone to Reno and we're getting a new papa". Are you hiding a script in your attic?

I PROMISED you the poet laureate, but I fear I cannot deliver for another week. I misread my invitation yet again and turned up a week early for the Arvon Foundation's Gala Gourmet Literary Dinner at the Savoy. I nearly found myself in the Metal Box Company's thrash, but retreated in time.

Many of us have been concerned this week about how many editors it takes to change a light bulb. There are conflicting views.

Some hold the traditional opinion that it takes 10: one who does it, one who wishes he could do it, one who remembers George Melly doing it, and seven who can't wait to write about it.

A more economical approach suggests that it can be done by four: one to do it, one who would like to do it, one who complains of other people doing it, and one who paid £500 to do it.

Next week we will be pondering the following profound question: how many Welsh weight lifters does it take to ... ?

FRANCES EDMONDS

## If I were...

**I**f I were Dr Ali Bacher, leading light of the South African Cricket Union and mastermind behind the controversial "rebel" England tour, I would be contemplating the bitter fiasco into which the current series has degenerated. An eminently decent man, fully committed to multiracial cricket in my country, I would be wondering what this ill-advised expedition will ultimately manage to accomplish. Traumatized and depressed, not so much by the anti-apartheid protests themselves as by the brutality of an unchanged police reaction, I would be forced to face reality. In the end, I would realize belatedly, this wretched enterprise could undermine the multiracial successes I have so far struggled to achieve.

As a brilliant batsman in my Springbok heyday, I would know more than most about the importance of timing. In the light of events, I would be obliged to admit that the timing of this tour could not have been worse. Its announcement, when English cricket had reached its nadir, was (I would not mind reiterating) just "horrible". Far worse: at a time when black expectations of the new De Klerk administration are



... Dr Ali Bacher

running high, this series harkens back to its '81/82 precursor and to the stone-faced repression of the hated Botha regime.

**S**ick of liberal clichés about "cricketing mercenaries", amused by naive Olympian nonsense about "keeping politics out of sport", and cynical about right-wing British Conservative MPs' claims that sporting links with South Africa "help to build bridges", I would explain how this particular tour would never have come about if only the International Cricket Conference had given me a fair hearing last summer.

Next, I would show how the stupidity of cricket's international governing bodies, particularly England's Test and County Cricket Board, have done far more than I could ever do to recruit disaffected rebel tourists. I would point to English county cricketers, the only cricketers in the world who play seven days a week and who are precluded from pursuing another profession simultaneously.

Is it surprising, I would ask, that cricketers whose livelihoods are at the mercy of selectorial whim or unexpected injury, professionals who have no security of tenure or guaranteed wage, and performers who are shunted into the sidings of life by the age of 35 should make such easy prey?

I would then beg the South African government to prove its new liberal credential by allowing peaceful demonstrations within cricket grounds. How else can we possibly attract spectators to watch this extraordinarily lacklustre series? Finally I would return to the collected works of that great West Indian journalist, author, playwright and cricket enthusiast, C.L.R. James and would agree with him: "What do they know of cricket, who only cricket know?"



William dropped by just as the night was getting serious.



## A CHILDHOOD: SIR CLIVE SINCLAIR

# 'To be able to go free to the Science Museum was enormously important to me and a tremendous inspiration'

**T**he wonder about Sir Clive Sinclair is that Steven Spielberg and George Lucas haven't beaten a path to his door demanding that he dream up some hi-tech super-machine for one of their Hollywood sci-fi, silly stories. Undoubtedly he could do it. As an inventor his whole life has been a process of creation, an obsession with gadgets and electronics.

And like the familiar nutty, absent-minded professor of movie-lore, he does have a certain vagueness about him — particularly those details of life which he finds uninteresting. Ask him to name the order of the schools he attended and he becomes extremely vague. There were, after all, 13 of them, he pleads.

But question him about childhood invention and he's off — starting with the crystal set radio in a wrist-watch which he made at the age of 10. "That was quite a nice little thing," he says, adding, in case one should doubt it, "it worked, too."

At the age of 49, Sinclair is one of the world's best-known inventors. His first pocket calculator, dreamt up when he was a schoolboy in the Fifties but not manufactured until the early Seventies, now lies on display in New York's Museum of Modern Art; while his home computers, another obsession from adolescence, led the world in the early Eighties. The very word processor used to type this article almost certainly owes something to his genius.

And undaunted by a much publicized stumble with his three-wheeled electric car in 1985, he now has plans for a new super-light-weight, foldaway bicycle and a more ambitious electric car. Electric cars will come, he has no doubts about that. The environment cannot tolerate petrol-driven engines much longer, he says, much as he loves driving his own petrol-driven Porsche.

He was born in Surrey, where his father had a mechanical tool company. He has one brother, three years younger, who is an industrial designer. A sister, six years his junior, is a psychotherapist.

The fact that he went to 13 schools came about largely, he thinks, because his parents moved about the country when he was young, particularly after his father's company got into financial difficulties. He was then 11. The ups and downs of his father's career did not make him nervous about the precarious life of the inventor as businessman, which is how he sees the inventor's role.

"Quite the opposite. I could see that he survived," he says. Almost reticent about his home life, which seems to have been perfectly happy, he paints a picture of "Scientific Sinclair", the schoolboy with a very good singing voice, "although I say it myself", as rather shy but obviously very clever. Learning and understanding came easy.

"I think I came top in every subject when I was at Boxgrove (the prep school where he spent most time). Then a correction. "No, I didn't. I came third in Latin. I never worked at anything if I couldn't see the use of it."

He probably did see the use of the piano since he loved the choir: "I'm a complete atheist. I just liked the ritual and music." But he

rebelled when he found it difficult to learn and became impatient. When he became bored with a subject he would simply give up.

By the time he was 11 he was, he thinks, basically doing what he wanted to do as far as school was concerned, which made him brilliant at maths and physics, but not a very good student overall, and often quite naughty.

"Perhaps I just had a natural inclination to get into trouble, but I always used to find that the most interesting boys in school were those who didn't do any work and so would gravitate towards them."

As most children who are obviously different in some way from the others discover, there was some bullying and taunting at several of his schools. But he learned how to look after himself, a valuable lesson in the life of an inventor who must inevitably

weather some abuse and ridicule in a career.

So, useless at games, working his way through the complete works of H. G. Wells, Conan Doyle, back issues of *Punch* and literally thousands of short stories, and always dreaming up some new project, he went from school to school (two terms seems to have been about the average) studying mainly what interested him and dreaming up endless projects.

Of course his parents bought him a Meccano set, but that didn't interest him for long — "I was always losing the spanner and couldn't be bothered to take things apart once I'd made them" — and a chemistry set "that lasted about 10 minutes".

His ambitions were definitely on another level, starting with making his friends' clockwork toys go faster.

At one prep school he began work on building his own television, but left before he finished it. Next, at Reading, he built a one-boy submarine — "Another term and I'd have drowned myself in it" —, forged a pass key and made a bomb by putting explosives from fireworks into the tubes of scaffolding erected on the front of the school. "There was a hell of an explosion, it terrified me." He was 14.

At Dorking Grammar he put microscopic amounts of chemicals into glasses so that when the other children poured water into them it turned different colours; and then he accidentally blew himself up when he dropped sodium into



The young inventor: Clive Sinclair (left) with his younger brother Iain

some water. And later, at Highgate, he solved the problem of having to polish his boots for Corps ("a complete bloody nuisance") by painting them with black enamel paint. "It worked beautifully, so everyone else did the same, and everything was fine for a few weeks until all the paint began to crack and a complete generation of boots had to be thrown away."

For this offence, or perhaps more likely some other, he was caned, which was a very rare occurrence. All the same it didn't stop him from winning the prize for writing a film script there. Unfortunately he left before the film could be made.

His final school was St George's College, Weybridge, where he made rockets out of bicycle pumps. "They went quite high up. I could have killed myself" — not to mention somebody else.

It was also there that, while studying for his S levels, he decided to write a book on the theory of relativity because he didn't think it was very well explained.

In the end he only wrote a long essay ("I still have it somewhere") but believed then, as he does now, that there is an error in the theory — "that's the special theory, not the general one", he adds helpfully. Of course.

He tells this story to illustrate the difference between his parents. His mother was much more of a cautious figure than his father. When he told her that he was going to write a book on relativity she said: "Don't talk such nonsense. Don't be so arrogant." His father, on the other hand, thought it a good idea. His heroes then, as now, were Einstein, Archimedes, and, above all others, Newton.

Generally he was, he thinks, always more interested in designing things than actually making them — often because he didn't have the materials. From earliest childhood he was a frequent visitor to the Radio Show and the Science Museum in Kensington, and was very pleased when he discovered that something he had designed, but not made, had been invented before and that it actually worked.

"I went there every chance I got and now I'm desperately sad to find that they're charging children £1 to go there. I think it's an absolute tragedy. Appalling. To be able to go free to the Science Museum was enormously important to me and a tremendous inspiration. Charging children is a tragic error and a terrible backward step from the prin-

ciples of the 19th century."

The logical path for someone like school boy Clive Sinclair would obviously have been a place at university, but at 17 he deliberately dropped out of education altogether, much to his parents' disappointment.

"I hated being taught," he explains. "I found it so boring. I could learn very quickly if I wanted to and I already knew a lot about electronics. I also knew that if I went to university I couldn't just study electronics, which interested me, I'd have had to do electrical engineering. So I was right not to go."

Pushed on the subject he concedes that it might, had he thought of it, have been fun to do a degree in English. Always a great reader, he lists poetry, with music, as one of his hobbies in *Who's Who*.

Years later, in the early Eighties, he did in fact go to Cambridge and take a degree in economics, but by then he was also visiting professor of electrical engineering at London University's Imperial College — just next door to the Science Museum.

"I've got honorary degrees and all that sort of stuff," he says, "but they fling those about all over the place. They don't do you much good."

As for his position as chairman of Mensa since 1980, he is almost dismissive. "That's just a social thing really, not intellectual — the top two per cent. All it says is that the people there are reasonably bright."

"To be an inventor is an eclectic sort of life. You've got to know about a lot of different subjects in different ways, so you have to teach yourself what you want to know. I don't think university is much of a help if you want to be an inventor — and that's all I ever wanted."

On the question of identifying a moment at which his childhood ended he becomes particularly vague in that he does not believe he ever went through a rite of passage experience. Perhaps, he wonders, with considerably more justification than most, he never actually did grow up. Life just seems to have carried on from one project to the next.

Looked at from another point of view, he was also quite a grown-up young man at 18 when, after writing articles for enthusiast magazines, he took over a scientific publishing company. From there he went quickly into business in his bed-sitting room in London, selling kits for transistor radios, before moving into hi-fi and calculators.

At 21 he was married to the girlfriend he had met a couple of years earlier at a Highgate social club. (The marriage was dissolved in 1985. He has three children.)

Contemplating his life, he reflects that he only ever wanted to be well off enough to keep inventing, but that he always realized that invention alone was not enough.

"The inventor is someone who has to come up with the idea and put it across to the public. He has to be an entrepreneur, because there are buckets of ideas around and they're not always very good ones. We don't need any inventors really: most of them are just a nuisance most of the time."



'To be an inventor is an eclectic life. You have to know about a lot of different subjects in different ways'

## 'A race to the coast against a great barrier of cold'

Continued from previous page temperature starting to drop even further each day, they brace their sinews for the final haul to Mirnyy by March 3.

The American, Will Siegel, a 45-year-old veteran of the 1986 dogged expedition to the North Pole, wrenched his back in the traverse early on and when he is in too much pain to ski he runs alongside the sleds. So, too, does the Chinese member, Qin Dahe, two years his junior and until recently the leader of his country's base, the Chinese Great Wall Station, on King George Island.

The Frenchman, Dr Jean-Louis Etienne, a specialist in nutrition and sports medicine, wrenched his knee a few weeks ago, and the Russian, Victor Boyarsky, still leading from the front as he has been doing since the start on August 1 at the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, bears the heaviest facial scars from the elements.

It is not just the conditions that have caused the weight loss. After six unrelenting months, the trek's staple food of Eskimo pemmican has lost its palatability for the men.

In a telephone call to *The*

*Times* from the Soviet base at Vostok, the British team member, Geoff Somers, a carpenter from Keswick, described it as "a race to the coast with a great barrier of cold descending on us. Winter is chasing us and the temperature is dropping by one or two degrees every day."

As a member of the British Antarctic Survey, 39-year-old Somers was stationed on the peninsula for 33 consecutive months from 1978 to 1981, and a further nine in 1987. "There are frequent occasions when we are in danger," he admits, "but we never really think about it. We had to nurse two of the dogs for two months because they had frostbite in their legs; we wrapped them in jackets until a plane could take them off."

"Antarctica doesn't treat fools gladly, and life here can be very, very complicated. When the worst winds came, all we had were two layers of canvas between us and the outside. It would take less than two seconds for the tent to go and you would die."

Back in September, on day 52, the challenge was nearly scrapped when two of the three sleds disappeared over the side of a hill and down a steep bank of blue ice. The sleds careened downwards for almost 1,000ft before crashing. By a miracle neither the men nor their machines were badly damaged.

Even before the trek got under way there were problems. A shortage of fuel meant that the aircraft which were to ferry food from the Ellsworth Mountains to the South Polar region, and to points between the Pole and Vostok, were unable to fly. At the last moment the Russians stepped in with an offer of fuel.

For an expedition which has vaunted the strength of international co-operation, there was a peculiar hiccup when the men reached the South Pole a few days before Christmas — the first to have got there by dogged sled. Roald Amundsen in 1911. Because this is a private expedition the occupants of the American Amundsen-Scott base offered virtually no hospitality.

"It was a bit of an anticlimax, especially when you

consider that expeditions come by only every eight years or so," Somers says. "They wouldn't even let us have a hot shower. They just gave us a cup of coffee and we had to leave and pitch our camp away from the permanent buildings. Yet at Vostok we got a terrific reception. The Soviet staff were so enthusiastic. They really made us feel welcome."

In Washington DC the National Science Foundation, which is responsible for the work carried out at the base, expressed no surprise at the way in which the six were met. "I don't think there is any suggestion that we were actually impolite to them," said Guy Guthridge, manager of the foundation's polar information programmes. "The reason for our attitude is that the facilities of the base are for scientists who have hard-won the right to be there."

The South Pole base is one of three Antarctic stations at which American scientists can carry out research on atmospheric constituents in air, which is the cleanest on earth because of its distance from the planet's sources of pollution.

Without being rude, Guthridge made it clear that government-backed expeditions were one thing, and private operations, no matter how professional, quite another.

**W**e have had many conversations with private expeditions, and they know perfectly well that we operate under terms which do not allow us to offer any assistance, except in cases of emergency. We can and do offer help to government-backed expeditions; one of the central principles of the Antarctic Treaty is that there should be inter-governmental co-operation."

Even though the expedition is not government-backed, no one doubts the professionalism of its personnel. Nor is the scale of its ambition in doubt, for this is not only the first attempted traverse to start from the peninsula, it is also the longest.

In the opinion of Robert Headland, archivist at the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, it is welcome for its honest approach to the pro-

ject. "It cannot be accused of charlatanry," he says. "It has always said that at one level it is a terrific adventure. If it also focuses the appropriate kind of attention on the continent then it can be considered a success."

"It is also novel in the sense that the expedition has taken a completely different route, at 90 degrees to the usual approaches from the Ross and Weddell Seas. It means that there are opportunities for new and detailed local mapping."

Despite the weather hounding the six men and their dogs from the west, the worst is behind them as they drop, inch by frozen inch, through the 1,200ft height difference between Vostok and the sea. Even though the temperature pursues them down the gale, the going will get easier on the ground used by the Soviet transport vehicles which ply to and from the coast.

It might still be the loneliest place on a shrinking planet, but to this tiny global community on the move for half a year, the last miles of flattened snow on the road to Mirnyy will seem like Oxford Street.

### American Express Personal Reserve Overdraft Account

With effect from 5th February 1990 the rate of interest applicable to American Express Personal Reserve Overdraft accounts will be increased to 2.02 per cent per month, and the Agreements with all holders of such accounts will be so varied.

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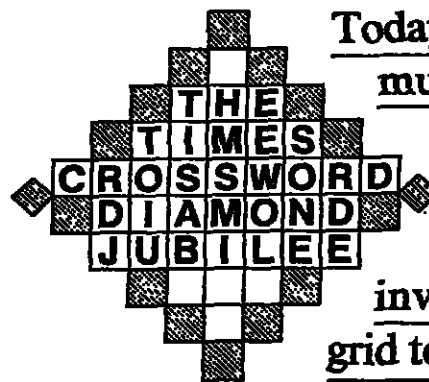
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## COMPETITION CROSSWORD

## Final clues to our prize puzzler



Today we publish the remaining  
multi-section clues in The Times  
Diamond Jubilee Crossword  
together with the clues already  
published during the week and  
invite readers to fill in the whole  
grid to enter our holiday competition

● All entrants must complete the crossword grid and address box printed below.  
● There are 12 prizes on offer for the successful solvers. The first correct solution opened on Friday, February 9 will win £1,000 and a trip to India for two, courtesy of Hogg Robinson and Cox & Kings. The nine-day tour begins and ends in Delhi and includes trips to the Pink City, Jaipur, and Agra.  
● The second prize is a numbered set of the 32-volume *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in the limited edition platinum binding, together with a matching copy of the *Britannica World Data Annual*. The 10 runners-up will each receive *The Times Atlas of the World*.  
● Send your completed entry to The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 8XN, to arrive by no later than Thursday, February 8, which is the closing date for entries. The winners and solution will be published in *The Times* on Saturday, February 17.



## ACROSS

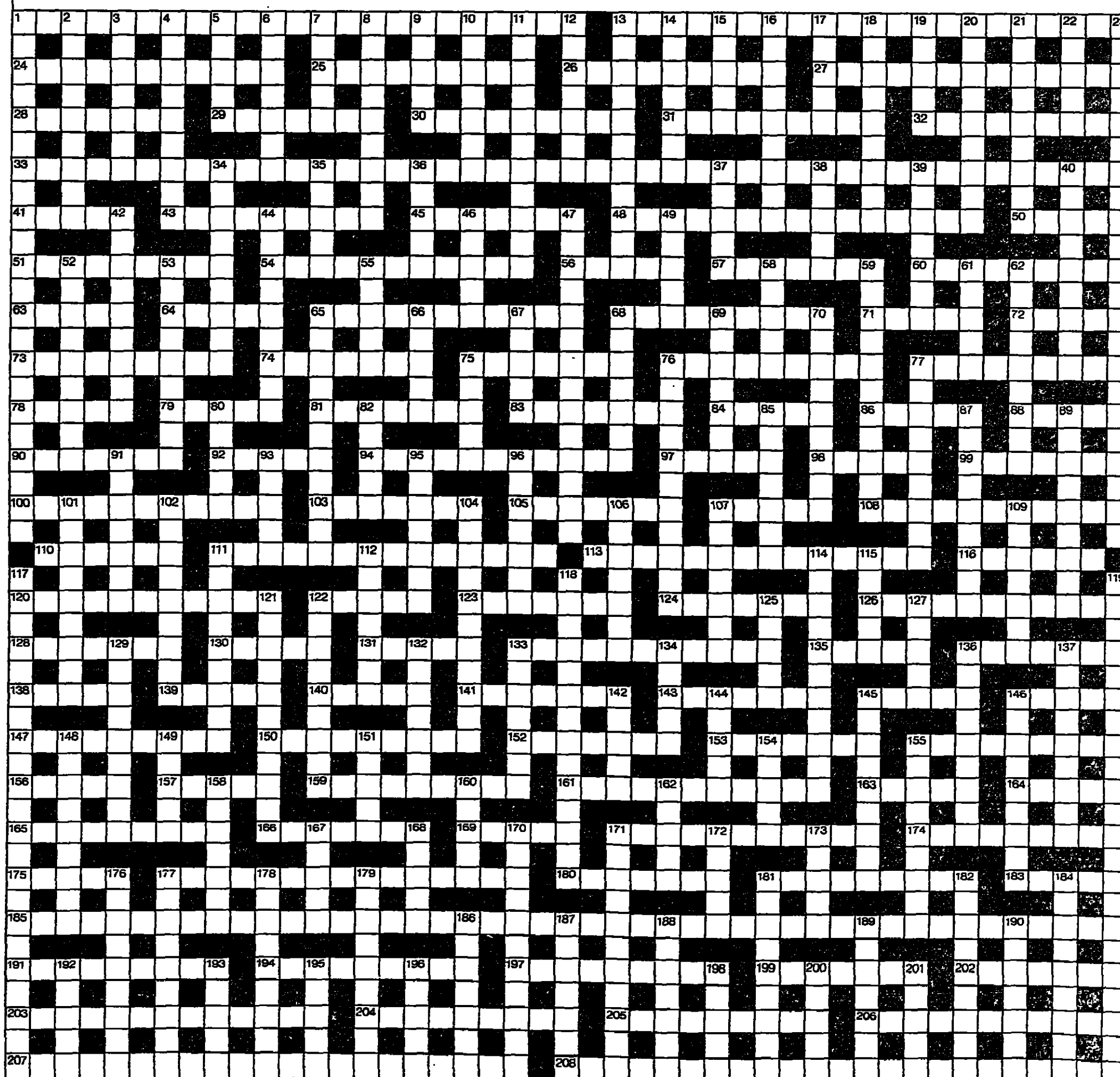
- 1 Proverbial statement of relative solidarity (5,2,7,4,5)
- 13 Our team extended 1200 of the Romans (10,7,4)
- 24 Diagnostic aid doctor encountered in there? Right (11)
- 25 Like a writer annoying us in angry letter, initially, about the Thunderer (9)
- 26 Needing animal, take gorilla at random (9)
- 27 Places on board to steer our empty vessels (13)
- 28 Girl cutting fabric? (7)
- 29 Hero-worshiper (7)
- 30 Heard a little boy, if I'd made tart (9)
- 31 What is a quarter of five? (9)
- 32 So oddly neutral a period in Europe (9)
- 33 Proverbial reason for an evening out (4,3,4,2,3,6,3,4,2,11)
- 41 Object of veneration Catholic priest embraced (5)
- 43 Settling for late retirement? (7,2)
- 45 Descriptive term — one *The Times* leader placed on record (7)
- 48 Select tailless pony — hope he might do for special race (3,6,6)
- 50 Abandon insignificant person (5)
- 51 Christian name for Arab child, oddly (9)
- 54 Jazz songstress affected in vacation centre (7,4)
- 56 Physician gets nothing for one wine (5)
- 57 Momentous wicket, with score less than 100 (7)

## DOWN

- 60 Erased or printed? (6,3)
- 63 Discharge former PM half-heartedly (5)
- 64 Better, perhaps, to capture rook (5)
- 65 Ready for American business in EEC (11)
- 68 Safeguard metal used by jeweller (9)
- 71 Section of ground I duly opened (5)
- 72 Sportsman placed in the middle of runners (5)
- 73 Mucking about is silly — shop early (9)
- 74 Coach called by viewer (5-2)
- 75 Merit of French answer (7)
- 76 Use force to move weapon-carrier to border (9)
- 77 Banning together for rising in Scotland (7,2)
- 78 Wines produced in Picardy? (5)
- 79 Firmly establish distinction in limited edition (5)
- 81 No change in fur seal (7)
- 83 Fire burning part of church (7)
- 84 Crack only visible, initially, inside (5)
- 86 Little bird, with cry of pain, suffered (5)
- 88 Old German settler's point of view (5)
- 90 Place for sisters, including 153's? (7)
- 92 Find very little strap on horse (5)
- 94 Plant in volume if not so plentiful (11)
- 97 Announce jury's conclusion in the box (5)
- 98 Particularly wide, possibly (5)
- 99 Demanding individual has to stir things up endlessly (7)
- 100 Man older than most — then an elder, possibly (11)
- 103 One new chapter in revised text is lifeless (7)
- 105 Covering man without weapon (7)
- 107 Large number in net? No (5)
- 108 Refuse a true novel writer (11)
- 110 Swearing in part of Russia (6)
- 111 Start ... (8,6)
- 113 ... and finish of 47, 118 (8,6)
- 116 Dread slip on front of tower (6)
- 120 Mount sentries in military HQ (5,6)
- 122 Money for composer, say (5)
- 123 His visitors are sometimes filled with dread (7)
- 124 Unhappy student finally getting rebuke (7)
- 126 Adam's wine-bask? (5-6)
- 128 Promise union to endure a sort of Communist hothead (7)
- 130 Pick a size of type (5)
- 131 Plain food (5)
- 133 Note deserter appeared without honour (11)
- 135 Within impressionism, one talented contributor (5)
- 136 Track almost complete — but sleepers aren't (7)
- 138 Left before midsummer? Gosh! (5)
- 139 Plan to get man on US board (5)
- 140 Better device for cutting vegetables? (5)
- 141 This ship, for example, at no point retreated (7)
- 143 Type who doesn't believe in passion with female (7)
- 145 Inn's surroundings, where learners get together (5)
- 146 Plant I removed from earth (5)
- 147 Left a ring to only daughter (9)
- 150 In science lab or at experimental complex (9)
- 152 Notice former Israeli leader make decision (7)
- 153 For part of Hamlet, put old coin back (7)
- 155 Jet-set? (4-5)
- 156 Contents of home, say, that you'll find in city (5)
- 157 Like Eliza in this fur (5)
- 159 Place of maximum damage i.e., per cent destroyed (9)
- 161 One with an interest in hobby, perhaps (11)
- 163 Make steady progress in workshop (5)
- 164 King, a fellow showing element of nobility (5)
- 165 Reassemble never, once scattered (9)
- 166 Like eternity ring, in more ways than one? (7)
- 169 Watering hole used by natives (5)
- 171 One who lays down his life for another (11)
- 174 Where a too-enthusiastic wet has gone? (9)
- 175 Guard's intended to remove source of ill-feeling (5)
- 177 Character in *Bleak House*, thwarting one of the defence (8,7)
- 180 View I reportedly photographed (7)
- 181 Putting on show or concealing? (9)
- 183 Bilingually, the end of a fairy (5)
- 185 Pooh's reason for difficulty with this puzzle (1,2,1,4,2,4,6,5,3,4,5,6,2)
- 191 Lucky fellow pronounced strange antics athletic (9)
- 194 Dog with fetching ways (9)
- 197 Arranged a loan sum — nothing unusual (9)
- 199 A foundation on the rocks (7)
- 202 Ought to change — that's not an easy task (7)
- 203 Silver surplus one country's amassing (13)
- 204 Engineer effective in going through accounts again (9)
- 205 Neat knitwear in craft collection (9)
- 206 On a trip, drinks in exalted mood (4,7)
- 207 Characters at start of book help in establishing contact (7,2,12)
- 208 From the M1 men, we hear many stories (3,8,3,3,6)
- 23 Transport one head prior to request? Certainly a profitable principle (8,6,8)
- 34 Nothing vital repeated about Duke? That's all right (4-5)
- 35 He upsets cricket side when batting ... (5)
- 36 ... as top player at close of play is out of form (5)
- 37 Skill in speaking? Not at all (5)
- 38 Intuitive guess from sleuth unchecked (5)
- 39 Without being asked, naturally sat down? (7)
- 40 Displacing into group, perhaps (9)
- 42 Lack of cordiality in church leads to complaint (9)
- 44 Was left in it without female editor (9)
- 46 Altogether the reverse of 93 (2,3)
- 47,118 Cause for celebration (5,9,7,7)
- 49 Times put in erudite crossword enabling lots, initially, to do well (5)
- 52 Old man in car is concerned with special gear (9)
- 53 Troops not well placed in middle of major road (9)
- 55 Lord's sporting occasion for bowler (5)
- 58 Man supporting one daughter, in a manner of speaking (5)
- 59 Something that will not endure those, perhaps, over fifty? (5,6)
- 61 Artist's staff at home (5)
- 62 Those who play I keep in to chastise (9)
- 65 Big-shot's version of 171 *du* (11)
- 66 Waste little money, once, on play (5)
- 67 As shown in score, very inconclusive attack (5)
- 68 Political leader recollected empire with king (7)
- 69 Duck us in Russian lake for stimulation (7)
- 70 Femme fatale? (9)
- 75 Capital invested by mutineers (5)
- 76 Press once here — that's the quick way (5,6)
- 77 Elmer omitting nothing in heroism (9)
- 80 Lassie's complaint? (5)
- 82 From running away, left to do this again? (5)
- 85 Amateur county record (3,4)
- 87 Company car? (3-6)
- 89 Iron measure used in plant (9)
- 91 Final part of play, a modern one (7)
- 93 Tired nobody out (3,2)
- 95 He has no reason to get involved in a cult (7)
- 96 Reduce flash (7)
- 101 Plant batches of really exotic trees initially inside this? (9)
- 102 Finally improved recognition of wit in Russian (9)
- 104 Rough treatment required before one's called doctor, perhaps (5,6)
- 106 Letter or note with lots about saint (7)
- 107 'eld a work unit up in island (7)
- 109 Problem with pipe tune — finally use appropriate key (7)
- 111 A minder with us, originally? (9)
- 112 Buoyant, to survive amongst broken ice (7)
- 114 Colourful man of letters (11)
- 115 Tent, for example, endlessly there for king (5)
- 117 Inside story, as told by Oscar (3,6,2,7,4)
- 118 See 47
- 119 Threatening acquaintances booked in France (3,8,11)
- 121 National hero dismantling segregation (5,6)
- 122 Mavis's relative produces country food (9)
- 125 Further forward (5)
- 127 Tribesman repeatedly volunteers to run (5)
- 129 Pulled too far back on the rocks (9)
- 132 Rant and rail, initially, creating heat (7)
- 133 Rich food — get pains through tucking into it (7)
- 134 Awfully hard-core material used in some pictures (5)
- 136 Old men from Ireland it's futile to chase (4,5)
- 137 Patriotic work from staff in land I adore (9)
- 142 Shrub out of place in nursery? (5)
- 144 Earmark complete set of books (5)
- 145 Group with mission providing work for church (4,5)
- 146 Possible to get quarters that can be improved (9)
- 148 Chairman's confused, hence total disorder (9)
- 149 Keener parent who overpraised children (5)
- 151 Ring, as it happens, for a girl (5)
- 154 Magistrate's conclusions in the summing-up much too clever (5)
- 155 Science established by sound investigations (9)
- 158 Artist to draw merchant from his city (7)
- 160 Organized workers having the edge in plant (5)
- 162 Poet's angry? Wordsworth's speechlessly distraught (5)
- 167 Split money (5)
- 168 Fish was perceptibly stale (5)
- 170 Thought character of festivities should be changed (11)
- 171 Book with coloured cover (11)
- 172 Unqualified to speak, mainly (5)
- 173 Deliberately lose a chance (5)
- 176 Opening doctor spotted in cancellation (9)
- 177 Endowed alms church retains after Reformation (9)
- 178 Highly effective money (9)
- 179 Joined — one enlisted and served in army (9)
- 181 US writer sets end of play in Californian city (5)
- 182 Fine judgement makes sound sense (4,5)
- 184 Immediately on the side of river, initially (9)
- 186 Learning garland is for seductress (7)
- 187 Overwhelmed by anxiety, doctor's admitted (7)
- 188 Old man's work the lion destroyed (7)
- 189 Remove smooth characters before I appear in French city (7)
- 190 One hound I set free he escaped with ease (7)
- 192 Has potential to take power (5)
- 193 Scoff food for cattle (5)
- 195 General purpose sort of instrument (5)
- 196 Home of religious leader, an apostate of the prophet (5)
- 198 Confusion upset university supporters (5)
- 200 Scratched and bloody when admitted (5)
- 201 Pursue game silently under cover (5)

NAME

ADDRESS



هكذا من الأصل



# FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Life in Lebanon is a constant battle, even for the owner of a West Beirut cocktail bar, Juan Carlos Gumucio discovers

## Shaken, but never to be stirred

ROBIN JACQUES

The top half has been devastated by shelling and countless street battles. Step inside to the ground floor and you might almost be in a Kensington pub — if the heating system was working. Welcome to the freezing Megalith bar and, in many ways, welcome to Lebanon.

The family that owns this bar in West Beirut is part of the Sunni Muslim establishment. The mustachioed man who runs it is an affable Greek Orthodox Christian called Habib Naimah. The cook is a Shia Muslim and there are six waiters, some Sunni, some Druse. Like every Lebanese, Habib has his own little daily wars to fight, as Beirut, after so many years of chaos, sinks deeper into decay.

The most recent battle is against the thieves who are defying Beirut's latest "security plan", the capital's most recent illusion. The Syrian soldiers who came to the city nearly three years ago to crush the militias and street hoodlums are withdrawing to their barracks inside the city. They are to hand over all security tasks to ill-trained Lebanese soldiers and the "Squad 16" paramilitary police.

Habib's mistake was to believe in a new Lebanon with the same conviction with which he contends that the upper floor of the Megalith was broken by demolition workers, not by war — although the traces of shrapnel and bullet holes are everywhere. Because the bar is only 15 steps from the police station at Hobeish, just across Bliss Street, he felt secure and protected. Now he has serious doubts.

A few days ago the bar was robbed, and 48 hours later two fat policemen, shivering under their heavy woollen coats, turned up to question Habib — at lunchtime, of course. They took down an inventory of Habib's losses — one stereo system, one television set, 10 cartons of cigarettes, one calculator and two new jackets — thanked him for the beer and nuts, and left. Technically, the case was closed as soon as they left.

"There's not much else you can do," Habib says with a shrug. "They asked me if I suspected anyone." He laughed. "Even if I did, how could I tell them? In this country you don't answer those questions. If you do, you're likely to end up dead." But he found far more serious parallels to his own unhappiness. "Who killed Kamal Jumblatt? Who killed Bashir Gemayel? Who killed President Muawad?" Habib knows that



there will never be clear answers. Yet crimes have one redeeming feature in the Lebanon. They are quickly forgotten and investigations are buried with the victims.

So, Habib has taken the sceptical approach — the Megalith is now encircled by thick belts of razor-sharp barbed wire. The bar looks like a garrison prepared for an infantry assault.

But Habib has other things to worry about. General Michel Aoun is threatening to cut off the electricity in West Beirut. Already Habib runs a generator and borrows an electrical line from the local Beirut International College. Much of the meat on sale in Beirut is weeks old, and power cuts mean that tons of rotten meat are offered to the city's restaurants (newly refrozen, of course).

Then there is the age-old problem of unwanted guests, which in Beirut can be a dangerous matter. "Three guys walked in the other day — they were bad news. They were crooks. I couldn't tell if they

were armed. I informed them that we were having a private wedding reception. I gave them our card and told them they were most welcome if they made reservations next time. Fortunately they got the message."

Habib knows that with or without "security plans" he must ensure that the Megalith remains open so that he can still take home 500,000 Lebanese pounds (about £600) at the end of every month.

That in itself is a challenge, now that nights out are more than ever threatened by thugs, high prices and stiff competition from the back-street bars, with which Habib says he has a personal score to settle. Aged 39, Habib is balding and already walks with a stoop.

"Look," he says. "Working 11 or more hours a day, hardly seeing your family and trying to please people all the time is no joke." But he will not let fatigue win over pride. He opens his arms to the darkness of the Megalith, where a poster of Humphrey Bogart in one of his Sam Spade roles stares down

from the same door broken by the thieves. "This is my life and I would not give it up for anything in this world. I could go to the 'other' (Christian) side or even abroad and make more money. But I will not leave West Beirut. I am needed here. I have not had enough of my town, my relatives, my friends."

Habib has seen this list shrink throughout the decade and a half of civil war. Some friends were murdered, some died or were maimed in random bombardment, some were kidnapped, never to be heard from again.

"Some Muslim neighbours went to the other side and never came back," he says. His cousin Nadim Naimah was murdered three years ago by one of his own comrades in the Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia during a power struggle in Christian East

Beirut. He was 30. The two men had taken opposite sides. His best friend took his machine gun and shot Nadim," he recalls. "His body was riddled with bullets."

Habib does not seem surprised at what has happened. Beirut is a story of betrayal. For four years he worked in a back-street nightclub half a mile away in Makhoul Street. During last year's bombardment Habib kept the club open every night, after the owners — four rich West Beirut Christian and Muslim businessmen — fled to Canada, the United States and France. "I made huge profits for them during that period," he says.

"When things cooled down they came back, and I asked one of the owners for a bonus to take my wife and three children on a brief holiday. I was told that 15 bottles of whisky were missing. I left the place. I had no money. They had full pockets but empty hearts."

Now Habib intends to have full pockets. Every drink costs the equivalent of about £1.80. A fillet steak is about £3.30. The cus-

tomers are mostly young Lebanese businessmen with their girlfriends, the occasional rich student from the American university of Beirut and the even more occasional foreign journalist.

Habib began working in this trade at the age of 15, working as a waiter in the now-devastated Palace Hotel in Bhandoun. Since then he has served drinks in more than a dozen bars in West Beirut. His most famous drink is the Green Line, named after the trail of ruins which marks the frontline between Muslim West and Christian East Beirut. "It is very dangerous — my clients love it," Habib says. "It's made of equal amounts of tequila, Malibu tropical coconut laced with light Jamaican rum, blue Curaçao liqueur and a thimbleful of orange juice."

But like everything else in the Lebanon, this cocktail is deceptive. At first it looks blue. Only after a minute or so of stirring does Habib's cocktail turn green. Thus does the Lebanon's partition flow through the Megalith.

## OUTINGS

**CLOWN'S SERVICE:** Special service and wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the great Grimaldi, whose influence did so much to popularize the genre. Clowns from all over the country, in full costume, will attend. Get there early. Holy Trinity Church, London E8. Tomorrow 4pm. Further information (01-254 5062).

**JORVIK VIKING FESTIVAL:** First day of a three-week festival of events celebrating the ancient fire festival, Joleblot, which brightened winter months in Scandinavia and Viking York. The festival always starts and ends with fire. Today, 7pm at Knavesmire, a massive fireworks display. Also, from 10am to 4.30pm in the Merchant Adventurers Hall, war games and competitions. Tonight 8pm. University of York Central Hall, Acker Bill's Paramount jazz band. York. Until Feb 24. Today. Fireworks, free. War games, adult £1, child 50p. Jazz, adult £5, student £4.50 (profits to charities for the disabled). Further information: Jorvik Viking Festival Office, 37 Micklegate, York (0904 611944), Mon-Fri.

**QUILLING AT KENSINGTON PALACE:** Family activity for adults and children aged eight and above. The art of rolling and shaping strips of coloured paper to make pictures was a popular pastime in the Victorian era. Today, using Victorian objects in the palace as inspiration, you can create your own pictures. State Apartments, Kensington Palace, London W8. Today 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm. Admission 50p plus normal admission (adult £3, child £1.50).

**THE WORLD'S LONGEST EVER NON-STOP MUSIC HALL SHOW:** Marathon charity event which began yesterday morning at London's oldest music hall. Participants are aiming at a Guinness Book of Records entry. Go along to watch, sponsor or take part. Hockton Hall, 130 Hockton Street, London N1 (01-739 54312). Today until 10pm.

**THE TALE OF THE WHITE GIANT:** The Northern Light Black Light theatre for children uses puppets, masks and "black light" in this colourful presentation. The Matings Arts Centre, adjacent public library, St Albans, Hertfordshire. Today 3pm. Adult £3, child £2. Box-office (0727 44488).

**A NEW LOOK AT DINOSAURS:** Philip Doughty from the geology department talks about the dinosaurs in the museum's Dinosaur Show. Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast. Tomorrow 2.30pm-4.30pm. Free.

**KEEPING GLASGOW IN STITCHES:** The city attempts to rival the Bayeux tapestry by producing 12 large fabric hangings, each depicting a different aspect or mood of Glasgow, by the end of the year. Go along to watch progress or lend a hand. Glasgow Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvin Grove (041 334 8006). Sat 10am-10pm, Sun noon-6pm, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm.

Judy Froshaug

## COLLECTING

### Using your horse sense

Horses have always been a popular subject for sculptors and painters, but it can be difficult to pick the winners from the array of collectable equine models available.

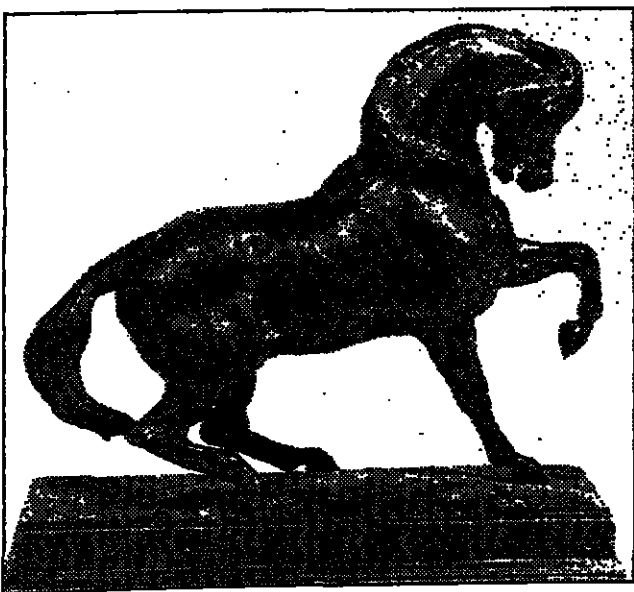
At the modest end of the market are the 1950s Staffordshire figures of heavy horses and hunters, covered in a shiny brown glaze, that turn up now and then at minor auctions, fairs and antiques supermarkets and can often be bought for less than £50.

Victorian "flatback" equestrian figures in pottery are relatively commonplace, but examples of horses without riders are not as plentiful. Staffordshire vases dating from around 1860, supported by mares with their foals, are likely to cost £300-£350 a pair from a specialist dealer. A rare early 19th-century figure of a piebald pony in Yorkshire earthenware can bring £2,000-£3,000 at auction, but it might not be recognized at a venue where the expertise is limited.

The most celebrated type of pottery horse was made in China during the Tang dynasty (618-906AD). Like the clay figures of servants, soldiers and dancing girls, the horses were placed in tombs to serve the master's needs in the afterlife — a humane custom that replaced the earlier practice of burying the people and animals alive, but it became so popular that, in 741, a royal edict was issued to limit the number of figures per grave. Even so, a great many have been looted from tombs and

The equine model field is wide, so how can you be sure of picking a winner?

Peter Philp looks at the favourites



French bronze horse by Barye, sold at Christie's for £2,860

have found their way to the West.

They now fetch prices ranging from about £4,000 up to 10 times that amount. The best examples are about 18in high, dynamic in their modelling, and decorated with coloured glazes. Many have been damaged and restored, sometimes with discreet adjustments. A horse with a raised foreleg sells for more than one with its four feet on the ground; in the course of repair the stance can be altered, however, and it

takes an expert to decide whether or not this has happened. Decorative copies are now being made in China and exported to the West, most of them marketed honestly enough as reproductions; but beware of the odd one that is slipped into a sale to tempt the bargain-hunter.

The same principle applies to modern copies of 19th-century French bronzes, originally produced by a group of sculptors known as the animaliers, who personally

supervised the casting and finishing of their work. Horse subjects by two of the leading members of the group — Barye and Mene — are being produced, complete with signatures, but poorly finished with an apology for a patina. Many are included in provincial auctions, where they usually sell for about £350 each — not really expensive, if the buyer knows the score and is happy with the product. An authentic bronze horse by Barye was sold by Christie's last autumn for £2,860.

Last November Christie's also sold an 18th-century Japanese stag-andler netsuke in the form of a horse, signed by Tsumemasa of Shima Province, for £1,100. If this seems a lot for a toggle about 2in high, it pales beside Bonham's estimate of £6,000 for a Lalique moulded glass horse's head, originally a car mascot, that is not even in perfect condition.

Pictures of horses are another collectable field. Regency and Victorian prints of famous horses are popular, but slightly stained or torn examples can be bought very reasonably. As for paintings, no one expects to buy a Stubbs, cheaply, but it is well worth looking out for the work of lesser artists in the field. A well-documented painting by Edmund Havel of Isinglass, winner of the 1895 Ascot Gold Cup, estimated by Christie's last year at £2,000-£3,000, was sold for £10,780. In dirty condition, and at a country sale, this kind of picture can sometimes be bought for a fraction of that price.

**VALENTINES:** "See here's a heart you may behold, which breaks when you these lines unfold." This message, from an early 19th-century folding Valentine card, features in a selection of Valentine cards in this sale of ephemera (estimates range from £20-£120).

Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611). Viewing: Tues 2pm-5pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-10am. Sale: Thurs 10.30am.

**John Shaw**  
More Antiques and Collectables in The Times next Wednesday.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Under the greenwood tree

When Graham Stroud was fighting cancer he found that a course of meditation strengthened his determination to defeat the disease. He was told to picture in his mind his favourite stretch of countryside, a wooded pasture running down a valley to a clear, tumbling stream near the village of Llanrhadril in Cwtyd. Years later, to celebrate his victory over the illness, he returned to the spot.

"It was," he says now, "something of a shock, to say the least. The place had been devastated, with all the trees cut down for timber."

Stroud, a 39-year-old joiner, didn't just kick the ground in disgust, walk away and forget about it. He decided to do something and with his long time friend, Paul Leverett, he set up a company called Heritage Conserved, with the sole intention of encouraging members of the public to dip into their pockets to help create the woodlands.

They are not alone in their concern or in the realization that people today are prepared to pay to encourage tree planting. New woodlands are sprouting up around the country, from the Isle of Skye to Cornwall.

Some estimates put the area of Britain now covered by woodlands at less than 10 per cent. However, a range of schemes, from national campaigns to local initiatives, are proving successful in an atmosphere of increasing "green consciousness".

Some schemes are offering trees on small plots, either leasehold or freehold. By creating a hillside in small parcels owned by hundreds of different people, it is intended to make any potential change of use so muddy a legal morass that developers would simply shy away.

Peter Davenport reports on the growth of organizations which aim to replace some of Britain's lost woodlands



Trees for the future: British Broadleaf Heritage's Alan Palmer

Business has flourished in the past four months, and almost 1,000 plots have been sold, with owners spread across the world. There will eventually be around 2,500 broadleaf trees planted in the wood, and the company is now looking for other sites in Wales.

At Bearah in Cornwall, on a site of 55 acres, Alan Palmer is creating new woodland which will eventually have around 25,000 trees. He is the managing director of Traditional British Broadleaf Heritage, a company formed to create amenity woodlands around the country to counteract the extensive

loss; around 40 per cent of our ancient woodlands have been claimed by industry and agriculture since the Second World War, and the losses have been compounded by the hurricane of October 1987 and by the recent storms.

Palmer's company offers two leasehold schemes. A payment of £30 buys a 75-year lease on a 9sq yd plot of land on which a tree, one of the 30 varieties of broadleaf on offer at Bearah, is planted. For £142, you receive a 110-year lease on a 16sq yd plot in which your tree is set. Initially the company is planting 250 trees per acre; after 75 years the trees on the

short leases will be thinned out to provide more growing room for those on the longer leases, giving a coverage of 50 trees an acre.

So far more than 500 plots at Bearah have been sold, and a similar number reserved. Among those who have already bought plots are Sir John Gielgud, Sir Yehudi Menuhin, the naturalist Gerald Durrell, and Lady Richardson, the widow of Sir Ralph, on behalf of her late husband. Palmer hopes to announce a similar scheme on a 60-acre site in Surrey shortly and is looking in the Midlands for another suitable location.

The oldest of the pay-to-plant schemes is run by the Woodland Trust; its "Plant a tree for a Pound" programme, launched 10 years ago, recently reached the milestone of the 250,000th sapling to be dug into the ground. For £25 the Trust will plant trees in a specific wood which the donor can choose from a list of sites, currently stretching from Devon to Yorkshire.

Even more ambitious is the campaign by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, launched in the autumn of 1988, to plant one million trees around the country over a three-year period. It is well on target, with almost half a million planted already with more than 30,000 people taking up the challenge.

The Trust's Jane Bevan says: "The increasing awareness of 'green' issues is leading to more and more people coming forward. When you think of the destruction of the rain forests, of the trees lost in the Great Storm, it might not seem much to plant one million trees. But to achieve anything you have to start somewhere. Every tree has an effect."

● *Heritage Conserved, Afilion, High Street, Llanfyllin, Powys SY22 5AR (069 184 749)*  
● *Traditional British Broadleaf Heritage, 1 Briston Orchard, Duchy of Cornwall Estate, St Mellion, near Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6RQ (0175 51195)*  
● *The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL (0476 74297)*  
● *British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, (01-381 9927).*

#### ACADEMY CLEAR-OUT:

Sale includes 153 lots of pictures and a few sculptures which have been accumulating in the vaults of the Royal Academy. Content ranges from traditional to abstract. Sale in aid of the Royal Academy Benefactors' Fund. As this is a charity auction there will be no buyers' premium. Bargain opportunities. Bonham's, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-584 9161). Viewing: today 9am-noon. Sale: today 2pm.

**POT LIDS:** One couple's collection of 175 lids, including a rare exhibition example of

#### SALES GUIDE

**Grace Before Meals** (est £200-£1,200). Also over 150 lots of Baxters Prints and a set of La Blond ovals. Philip's West Two, 10 Salem Road, Bayswater, London W2 (01-229 9090). Viewing: Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9am-11am. Sale: Wed noon.

**GLASGOW GALA:** The city's artists and landmarks celebrated in a special sale at the Royal Scottish Automobile Club in Elythwood Square. More than 90 Glasgow pictures on offer, including six very

attractive city views of the Queen Margaret Bridge, the Kirklee Bridge, and the Botanic Gardens by George Leslie Hunter estimated to make between £1,000-£2,000 each. There is also a fine Myles Birkin Foster water-colour of Glasgow Cathedral (£4,000-£6,000). Paintings followed by 102 lots of jewellery (ests £400-25,000). Sotheby's, 148 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 (041 221 4817). Viewing at RSAC: today 10am-5pm, Sun and Mon 10am-5pm. Sale: Tues, 3pm and 5pm.



# Developing a taste for gimmickry

A political cartoon by Francis X. Foley. The central figure is a man in a suit carrying a towering, precarious stack of barrels on his back. The barrels are emitting thick steam or smoke. To his left, a woman in a dress also carries a stack of barrels. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a suit looks up at the central figure. To the right, another man carries a single barrel. In the background, more people are seen carrying stacks of barrels, and a large industrial building with multiple smokestacks is visible, with thick clouds of smoke billowing from it. The scene is set in a steamy, industrial environment, likely representing the oil industry or a similar resource-based economy. The cartoon is signed 'FRANCIS X. FOLEY' in the top right corner.

new clichés are far more expensive than were the old ones, and so these restaurants can hardly be counted as a utility unless, that is, you have two daughters who, like Lord Lucan, prefer to eat the same meal twice and again. This, I hope, is the only thing my daughters have in common with the pitiful earl — they are certainly kind to their nanny. Lucky's supper was lamb cutlets or, in summer, lamb cutlets *en gelée*. Theirs is won-ton, seaweed, spring rolls, duck with pancakes, fried noodles. You can get it on any high street. The mean standard is good. At the Peking Duck in Temple Fortune they had no complaints. I could have done with less gluten on my scallops and would have stolen more of their won-ton had the batter not been so thoroughly soaked in sweet 'n' sour syrup. Squid with garlic sauce was a little more of an ungainly version of the dish. With tea, toffee apples and orange juice the bill was £38, the sort of sum that should encourage other British chefs to follow Gill and grab a slice of a market which is being abandoned by its long-time occupants.

\*\*\*  
Bill Wyman's restaurant is a shrine to himself and to the rest of the Rolling Stones — photos, news clippings, gold discs, guitars; there's nothing that can't be put in

**Michaels\***  
**Portsmouth Road, Ripley**  
**(0483 224777)**  
★★★★

Good looking, airy restaurant in the middle of a quintessentially Surrey village. The cooking suffers the all too often encountered Home Counties failing of putting presentation before flavour. Nevertheless, not a bad place and one which might become rather impressive were the kitchen to let itself go a bit. Aromatic rabbit salad, bland lamb with wimpish arragon mousse, smoked salmon with dill. Decent wines at decent prices. **£50-£55**

The NUS should, however, respond to threats of disaffiliation with promises of reform. The urgent need for reform which I hope will be tackled at the spring conference.

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THE TIMES COOK

# In judgement with Paris

Frances Bissell joins the stars of European cuisine to judge the Trusthouse Forte Hotel Chef of the Year competition

DIANA LEADBETTER

It is the best thing to drink with chocolate desserts according to Gaston Lenotre, the multi-Michelin starred chef and one of the world's great pâtisseries. Paul Bocuse and Roger Vergé nodded in agreement at Michel Guérard's suggestion that grapefruit makes a much more successful marriage with chocolate than the more frequently used orange. I listened in awe, making mental notes of these tips from the masters and wondering at my good fortune in being in such star-studded company. Together with Jos Hyatt, editorial director of *Chef and Hotelkeeper* magazine, Victor Cressant, catering consultant and writer, and Jean Bellavista, senior executive chef for Trusthouse Forte, we all recently spent the day at Ealing College in London to judge the 16 finalists in the THF Hotel Chef of the Year competition, held in association with Charles Heidsieck champagne.

The theme of the competition was a three-course winter lunch with a British character, using local and seasonal produce where possible. There were 48 dishes for us to taste. This daunting prospect turned out to be far from disagreeable, since the overall standards of cooking and presentation were very high. Although we could select only three prize-winners, many of the other finalists produced individual dishes that were worthy of praise, if not prizes. Much use was made of game, in such dishes as partridge steamed in hay with champagne and cabbage, Lakeland venison with wild mushrooms, saddle of hare with cranberries and, from the winner of the second prize, Fred Tretzka, executive head chef of the Compleat Angler in Marlow, a masterly stuffed breast of pheasant. Mashed potatoes, turnips, turnips and turnips featured heavily among the starters, but there were also some more unusual dishes such as baked farmhouse Cheddar and onion soup under a light soufflé and poacher's sausage made of pigeon, quail and rabbit meat.

The French chefs were quite startled at the English taste for fruit with meat and the accompanying sweet sauces made of port, Madeira, prunes, sloe gin, apricots and honey. I was delighted to see such dishes as braised beef Old Peculier, which led to an explanation of this *bière brune très forte* de Yorkshire, and breast of Lonsdale duck with a duck and apple pudding. Thought and imagination had gone into so much of what was presented to us, and a degree of boldness, too, in the way that traditional English delicacies and specialities were interpreted and proudly presented to the judges. A pen-fried fillet of codling from the first prize-winner, Ian Rhodes from the Castle Hotel in Windsor, impressed us all. It was presented with little show, but a perfectly balanced, creamy thyme sauce.

The desserts and puddings were

quite splendid. How good it was to see a Kentish apple pie with a delicate and fruity cider sauce, and, from the third prize-winner, Peter Staraschek, a substantial steamed pudding with a ginger and golden syrup sauce, which he served with a vanilla and suetana ice-cream. As well as these recipes from the prize-winners, I have included two of my particular favourites from the other competitors, an apple Charlotte flavoured with mint from Terry Lavin at the Wessex in Winchester and, perhaps the most eye-catching dish of all, the champagne flute from Michael Perry at the Ship Hotel in Parkgate, a delicious adult version of jelly and custard.

We (including the French) were all left in no doubt that British cooking is alive and well and in extremely capable hands. Note: These are the chefs' own recipes which I have adapted only as necessary, to achieve consistency of measurements, for example. It should be pointed out, too, that the chefs, as they were preparing these dishes, had a commis chef assisting them.

Smoked salmon and Dover sole rouille (Peter Staraschek)

(Serves 4)

6oz/170g finely minced Dover sole fillet

14fl oz/400g double cream

1 egg white

6oz/170g home-smoked salmon, not too thinly sliced into 4 slices

½ pt/280ml fish stock

½ bottle champagne

1½ pt/360g poached salmon (unseasoned fish stock reduced to a syrupy consistency)

2oz/60g unsalted butter, chilled and cubed

1½ pt/360g double cream

2oz/60g fresh chervil leaves

salt

white pepper

In a bowl set over a larger bowl of ice-cubes, prepare a mouseline by working together the finely minced sole, the double cream and the egg white. Spread the mouseline on the salmon slices and form into rounds or rolls. Poach these in the fish stock, remove and allow to rest. Add the *glace de poisson* to the poaching liquid, and reduce to about ¼ pt/140ml. Mount the sauce with butter, finish off with cream, and add a little chopped chervil. Season to taste. Slice the rouilles and arrange them in a circle on individual plates. Pour on the sauce and garnish with chervil leaves.

Note: As a substitute for home-smoked salmon, get a thick fillet of salmon, trim it into a neat rectangle, about 7in by 4in, and slice horizontally into four pieces. For extra flavour and texture, cure the piece of fish overnight in salt, pepper and a little sugar, and then rinse and dry it before slicing.

Fillets of codling (Old Windsor) (Ian Rhodes)

(Serves 4)

4 x 6oz/170g cod or codling fillets

salt  
white pepper  
3 slices of home-made or firm textured bread  
1 shallot  
8oz/170g unsalted butter  
1 small leek, white part only finely chopped  
1 small celery stalk, trimmed and finely chopped  
1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped  
6-8 sprigs of thyme  
pinch of mixed fines herbes  
1 bay leaf  
2fl oz/60ml white wine  
1pt/570ml fish stock  
½ pt/280ml whipping cream  
1-2tbsp flour

Skin the fish fillets and trim each one into a neat shape. Remove all bones. Season lightly on both sides with salt and pepper, cover and refrigerate while you prepare the breadcrumb topping and sauce. Finely crumble the bread and mix with the shallot, peeled and finely chopped. Melt half the butter in a frying pan, and sweat the finely-chopped vegetables and herbs, reserving a little of the thyme for garnish. When the vegetables are soft, deglaze the pan with white wine and add the fish stock. Bring to the boil and reduce to about ¼ pt/140ml. Add the cream and reduce again. Season to taste and pour through a fine sieve into a bowl set over hot water to keep the sauce hot. Remove the cod fillets from the refrigerator and flour them lightly.

Melt the rest of the butter in a frying pan and fry the fish gently until just done. Carefully remove it from the pan and transfer to a baking sheet. Top with the breadcrumb mix and pass it under a hot grill to lightly brown the topping. Pour the sauce on to heated dinner plates, arrange the fish on top and garnish with thyme. Serve with a mixture of English winter vegetables, such as leeks, parsnips, swedes, carrots, simply cooked and tossed in butter.

Miniature bread and butter puddings (Fred Tretzka)

(Serves 4)

6 slices thinly sliced white bread

2oz/60g softened butter

2tbsp sultanas

1 egg

1 egg yolk

2tbsp sugar

2-3 drops vanilla essence

pinch grated lemon rind

pinch grated nutmeg

3fl oz/85ml milk

1fl oz/30ml double cream

2oz/60g sugar for glazing

Cut out 12 2in rounds of bread and spread with butter. Brush four 2oz/60g ramekins with butter and place a slice of bread on the bottom of each and divide half the sultanas among them. Top with another piece of bread, the rest of the sultanas and the last slice of bread. Whisk together the rest of



the ingredients except for the last amount of sugar, strain and pour over the bread. Leave to rest for two hours. Place in a roasting tin with a little water, and bake for 25 minutes in a pre-heated oven at 180-190°C/350-375°F, gas mark 4-5. When cooked, remove from the oven, sprinkle sugar on top and glaze under a hot grill. When set but still warm, carefully remove the puddings from the ramekins and arrange on plates. Note: Fred Tretzka served these with two other puddings, an apple-filled brandy snap biscuit and a poached pear.

Champagne flute (Michael Perry)

(Serves 4)

½ pt/280ml champagne

2tbsp castor sugar

2 sheets gelatine

½ pt/340ml milk

1 vanilla pod

1tbsp cornflour

2 egg yolks

½ pt/140ml whipping cream

Garnish: fresh or frosted mint leaves, angelica, glazed, crystallized or fresh fruit

Put half the champagne, 2tbsp sugar and the gelatine in a small saucepan. When the gelatine has softened, heat gently until it and the sugar have dissolved. Add the rest of the champagne and set aside to cool. Pour into four quite large champagne flutes and place in the refrigerator, carefully balanced to set at an angle of roughly 45°. Pour the milk into a saucepan, add the vanilla pod and bring to the boil. Mix the cornflour in a bowl with the egg yolks and the remaining sugar and pour on the boiling milk, stirring continuously. Strain the mixture back into the pan and cook very gently until the custard coats the back of a spoon. Allow to cool. Whip the cream until stiff and fold into the

custard. When the champagne jelly has set, spoon on the custard and chill once more. Decorate with fruit and mint leaves.

Mixed apples Alexandra (Terry Lavin)

(Serves 6)

1lb/455g apples

6oz/170g castor sugar

½ lb/110g unsalted butter

1lb/455g sliced white bread, crusts removed

6-8 sprigs of fresh mint

juice of 1 lemon

6fl oz/170ml double cream

6fl oz/170ml oloroso or amontillado sherry

½ lb/110g apricot jam

½ lb/110g flaked almonds, toasted

Peel, core and roughly chop the apples, place in a saucepan with 4oz/110g sugar, bring to the boil, and simmer for two minutes. Remove from the heat. Butter six individual moulds and sprinkle with the rest of the sugar. Butter the bread, cut into fingers and use to line the moulds, butter side out, leaving enough bread to cover the moulds. Finely chop a dozen or so mint leaves, and mix with the apples, the juice of a lemon, half of the cream and half of the sherry. Spoon the apple mixture into the prepared moulds and cover with the remaining pieces of bread. Put the moulds on to a baking sheet, and bake at 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6 for 10 to 15 minutes. Meanwhile, make the sauce by putting the apricot jam, the cream, sherry, a few more mint leaves and a little water in a saucepan. Simmer gently for 10 minutes. Strain on to plates, arrange the puddings on top, turned out of their moulds and garnished with toasted almonds and mint leaves.

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Frances Bissell will be guest chef at the Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong, from February 1 to 28.

FOOD

# Overflow from the salmon lake

London apprentices once campaigned to have it in their articles of employment that they would not be required to eat salmon more than twice a week. Now salmon, which many regard as the finest of fish, is almost everyday fare again.

This week it has been cheaper in some fishmongers' shops than humble haddock or common cod. While storms kept the fishing fleets in harbour, forcing up prices of cod and haddock towards £3 a pound and initiating panic purchases from the Soviet Union at a barter rate of 10 British mackerel for one Russian haddock, we have a glut of salmon. Prices have gone as low as £2.25 a pound.

That comes about because Scottish fish farmers last year increased output from 19,000 to 28,000 tons, while Norway almost doubled production from 82,000 to 150,000 tons. The Norwegians have now introduced an intervention scheme to freeze excess production for consumption in eastern Europe, but there is more to come: British output is likely to double again, to 55,000 tons, by the mid-1990s.

Haddock and cod will continue to be in short supply, and to increase in price, as EC quotas tighten. The search is on for other species, such as orange roughy and hoki from New Zealand, Alaskan pollock and ocean perch from Iceland, which could replace them. Meanwhile, salmon could be the chicken of the future.

What the fish farmers have devised for salmon is even more astonishing, and contrary to nature, than anything the poultrymen have dreamt up for battery hens. A life cycle which defies explanation has simply been bypassed and abolished.

Wild salmon start life in river gravel as tiny pink blobs. They grow in fresh water to be parr, the size of a man's finger. Then they head out to sea as smolt, changing their appearance, shape and internal systems to adapt themselves to a life ranging the ocean.

Where smolt went was a mystery until nuclear submarines reported finding shoals of them feeding on the plankton beneath Arctic ice floes. It remains a mystery how the fish find their way back from feeding grounds up to 2,500 miles distant to their native river to spawn, and, usually, to die.

These are the voracious, fighting fish beloved of anglers (who, incidentally, benefit the Scottish economy by £50 million in their pursuit), fought for by bailiffs and poachers, and famous for their spectacular jumps up seemingly impassable waterfalls — feats which earn them their Linnaean name *salmo salar*, the leaper. But once returned to freshwater they do not eat. Few survive to make their way down river again. If they do they are wasted creatures, unfit to eat, known, picturesquely enough, as spent kelts.

There is none of this ocean-roaming adventure for the farmed fish. They are bred in tanks and reared over three to four years in cages which are merely moved from fresh to salt water to substitute for the natural migration.

There are 472 coastal salmon farms in Britain, and 120 freshwater rearing sites. The farms keep up to 500,000 salmon in cages which may extend over areas as large as several football pitches. Fish farming is more intensive than any agricultural rearing system, and similarly hazardous, but fish farmers now provide one quarter of all the fish we eat.

As far as salmon is concerned, the proportion is 97 per cent farmed to three per cent wild.

The crowding of the farmed fish in their pens makes them vulnerable to disease. Outbreaks of an ulcerative disease called furunculosis are frequent. So is infection with sea lice. Wild fish get rid of them by swimming, but plaques easily develop in caged stock. The usual method of combating the lice is treatment with an organophosphorus compound called Aquaguard or Nuvan, a pesticide suspected of damaging other marine life, and thought to cause cataracts and blindness in salmon themselves.

A more engaging method of control being experimented with in the Shetlands is to introduce cold-water goldfinch wrasse to the salmon tanks, fish which obligingly eat sea lice off other fish.

Even if that ecologically acceptable method of control succeeds, other diseases threaten. The import of ungutted salmon and trout from Norway was banned from Christmas Day last year to guard against the introduction of infectious salmon anaemia from Norwegian farms.

It takes 200 tons of smaller fish (such as sand eels or sprats) to produce 100 tons of farmed salmon. One study suggested that 40 tons of those 200 tons fall to the bottom as waste, along with fish droppings, causing pollution which could stimulate plaques of plankton or poison the coastline.

There is a further risk from escaped farm fish breeding with, and weakening, the wild stock.

To see the farmed and wild fish, whether in the water or on the fishmonger's slab, there is little difficulty in telling the two apart. The farmed fish have stunted fins, blunted noses, and less muscular tails.

But after cooking the difference is hard to tell. Wild fish are likely to be fatter, but for caterans, restaurateurs, fish-smokers, and supermarkets farmed fish is preferable because it is more consistent, better coloured (thanks to ingredients in the feed) and shows no blood spots.

Naturally Marks & Spencer, with the unerring instinct of an anadromous fish, has homed in on farmed salmon as something to specialize in and promote as "the finest of fish".

Well, luckily you could not have a glut of anything much more adaptable than salmon. It can be boiled, poached, grilled, stewed, baked, fried, served hot or cold, smoked, pickled, or pickled. We may need to use it in all these ways to eat up the over-supply of which we now seem assured.

Robin Young

DRINK

New Zealand wines win top marks as Jane MacQuitty picks the best February drinking

# Southern comforts

With the Waitangi treaty and the Commonwealth Games, New Zealand wines should really be flavour of the month and year. The Kiwis may not experience the 150 per cent increase in sales in this country that the Australians enjoyed during their bicentenary *brahaha*, but they deserve to. And of the many New Zealand wines, the one that deserves to hog the limelight is Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.

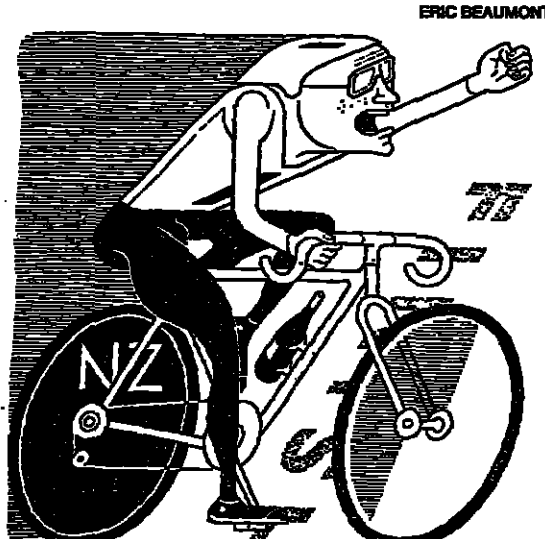
Montana, New Zealand's largest wine company, may have had the first success, but Cloudy Bay is now the cult New Zealand Sauvignon name, and there are others. I have long admired the stylish Corbans Stoneleigh Sauvignon. The splendid '88 Stoneleigh Sauvignon makes a fine February aperitif or accompaniment to fish dishes, with its fresh, herbaceous, beetley fruit and a little of the asparagus-like qualities of fine, aged Sauvignon. At £6.99 from Threshers, it is much better value than Cloudy Bay's £8.25-plus price-tag.

Aged New Zealand wines, either Cabernet or Sauvignon, are a rarity, but Wine Rack Threshers' up-market wine-shop arm, has just snaffled up a small parcel of 1986 Montana Marlborough Sauvignon. Not everyone will like the intense cabbagey scent and green bean-like palate of this wine, but if you like a rich, concentrated, verdant fruit in your glass this is the wine for you (Wine Rack £5.99). Less adventurous Sauvignon lovers will enjoy the crisp, young, flowering currant-scented fruit of the same wine's '88 vintage at Oddbins for £4.69.

The Sauvignon success of Montana and Cloudy Bay has

acted as a powerful magnet in the Marlborough area, encouraging Australian wine-makers to buy Sauvignon grapes there to beef up their own less characterful blends. New Zealand's own wine companies have also recognized the superiority of these Sauvignon grapes. Nobilo, a family-owned company on the North Island, has recently released its stylish '89 Marlborough Sauvignon here. This spritzy, invigorating '89 is a powerful combination of lychees, gooseberries and flowering currant (Majestic Wine Warehouses £6.75, Avery's, 7 Park Street, Bristol, £6.32).

Good, modestly-priced, non-vintage champagne looks like being a rarity this spring. If you are bored with your usual blend, try the Pavilion Wine Company's Ailerons et Baie Brut. This is the same wine as that from an important *grandes marques* champagne house, based in Ay, whose non-vintage Brut Ay, whose non-vintage Brut sells for much more. But this Ailerons blend, due to David Gilmour and the tastes of his clientele, has been given quite considerably more bottle-age. The result is a spectacular, rich, perfumed, biscuity, grapey champagne, whose creamy mousse and full flavour are absolutely de-



ERIC BEAUMONT

their lacklustre post-New Year trade with some good offers. The best of these is the Victoria Wine Company's Bordeaux promotion which continues until March 4. A litre bottle of Harvey's soft, easy-drinking No 1 Claret is available at the bottle price of £3.89. Rather more appetizing are the three Côte de France wines that Victoria Wine's buyers have tracked down. The Côte de France is one of those small, forgotten Bordeaux right bank regions that lies north-east of St Emilion.

I visited this region a few years ago and found that, although the Château de France is the best producer, Puygauraud and others are catching up. Disappointingly, the bottle of '86 Puygauraud (Victoria Wine £3.99) that I tasted was unappetizingly rustic and robust, but the '86 Château du Vieux Chêne, with its rich, plummy, cases-like palate, makes a fine, Merlot-dominated Côte de France experience and is excellent value (Victoria Wine £3.99). Better value still is the '88 Côte de France, a very moreish, musky, perfumed mouthful (Victoria Wine £2.99).

Claret drinkers should not forget the supermarket shelves in their hunt for good cru

WINE BUYS

• 1988 Vin de Pays de Vaucluse White, Vieux Chêne, Justerini & Brooks, 61 St James's Street, London SW1, £3.30. Splendid value white with an elegant scent.  
• 1988 Vin de Pays de Vaucluse Red, Vieux Chêne, Justerini & Brooks, £3.30. Even better than the white, with oodles of ripe fruit.

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# Seriously unfunny, truly unreal America

Thomas Pynchon has closed the distance between himself and the world he used to menace, James Wood laments

Thomas Pynchon, theatrical impresario and invisible man, presents his fourth great travelling show, after 17 years away from the circuit. Critics, feature writers, literary odd-jobs — the whole peanut-crunching crowd — have had ringside seats reserved for months. Steadily they move in, firing their questions like flash-bulbs. How does it look? Is it any good? Where is he?

"He", that is Pynchon, is nowhere to be found of course. Still on the run from fame, he has become a refugee in his own country. His fabled elusiveness fascinates because his apparent paranoia is so close to that of his fictional characters. It is as if he is enacting his novels' predictions.

These books are garish acts of theatre which satirize, blackly, the fevered theatricality of modern America. His style — a sinister vaudeville — owes much to Nathaniel West, whose novel *The Day of the Locust* gave similar treatment to Hollywood. As it does in West, America exists so hugely in Pynchon that it seems unreal, like a dream: a secular miracle of grotesque superabundance, where the trashy and the ephemeral are the only constants; where foolish brand-names and sterile convenience stores multiply like humans; a land rigged with highways and junction-networks and desolate parking lots.

A thrilling place, but for Pynchon, also sinister. Such a land, with its over-productive jungle,

threatens and confuses the poor civic explorer. Who is in control of this mess? We are not, for sure. This confusion encourages, in many of us, paranoia, sudden flight, and prolonged quests. So Pynchon delights in secret worlds and underground agencies.

In *V*, his first novel, one of the characters discovers that the New York sewers are full of alligators; the Pynchon touch lies in his creation of a large team of exterminators (the Alligator Patrol), a whole world working down in the stinks and effluents of society. In *The Crying of Lot 49*, easily his best novel, the search for a mysterious benefactor gets mixed up with a secret society who communicate by messenger post rather than by US Mail.

Pynchon's previous novels are all sustained by an electric tension between the "real" America and the novels' alternative or secret worlds — a tension, you could say, between an unreal reality and an unreal unreality. The difference between the two worlds is crucial, because it gives their occasional merging — as at the end of *Lot 49*, when the heroine wonders which America she lives in, the real or the imagined — a dramatic force.

His characters are truly unmoored, exiled from their own America and shadowed by "a

VINELAND  
By Thomas Pynchon  
Sackler & Warburg, £14.95

silent, unsuspected world" which might turn out to be real or a mere figment of their paranoia. In *Vineland*, the secret threat is technological: in this world we can be crushed or cancelled out any day with "just a short tap dance over the computer keys". But the tension has collapsed in this fourth novel, and the book collapses with it.

*Vineland* is the story of a group of ex-tipsies living in Reagan's America — people threatened not only with the consequences of their Sixties liberality, but also by contemporary forces. One family in particular — Zoyd Wheeler and his teenage daughter Prairie — is terrorized by a shadowy FBI fascist called Brock Vond. He is searching for Zoyd's former wife, Ernest (it will be clear that Pynchon hasn't lost his talent for cartoonish names), and, it seems, will go to hideous lengths to find her.

There are flashbacks to the Sixties and to a student riot, but Pynchon's stance — Satirical? Comic? Earnest? — is so liquid that we are not involved. The plot

becomes cavernous and wayward, with more and more oddballs — FBI stooges, psychedelic monks, weird students — crowding the stage. The novel overloads, and Pynchon, in a frantic effort to keep it on course, pumps it up with hectic vaudeville and strained jokes.

What happens is that the novel stops being serious. Pynchon's depiction of the Sixties has no bite, so his critique of Reagan's America has no authority either. That sense one had in his past novels, of reality as a magical affliction, half mirage and half menace, has gone. The tension between one kind of unreality and another kind, zanier or more sinister, has disappeared: we are in one world here, and everyone seems to be having a wacky time. There is none of the genuine human confusion that animated his previous works.

What has disappeared is any controlling moral authority. That tension and balance at which Pynchon was so good was essentially — as everything is in literature — linguistic. He made fun of America, and tweaked its certainties, but he kept a verbal distance from the excesses of his imagination, and this verbal distance was the author's guarantee: he wrote better than America lived. It was the moral compass: it gave the

reader direction and perspective. And out of the squeezing of different verbal registers (literary, popular, technical) passages of great gorgeousness were thrown up.

But Pynchon's language in *Vineland* is unable to contain the modernity it depicts. It simply merges with it, and all its obscurities — the loosened syntax, the modish lexicon, the pages of odd brand-names — are pointless because the language is no longer reorientating the world. It is simply rearranging itself.

Pynchon uses the latest phrases like "user-friendly" or "seriously" (as in "seriously rich") but without keeping a distance from them. Whenever he mentions a film, he puts its release date after it in brackets, and the aim seems to be a comic historical specificity, the notion of passing ephemera. But what about Pynchon's own language? When he writes (referring to the film star Clint Eastwood): "The dope cop permitted himself an Eastwood-style mouth-muscle nuance", where is the necessary distance, the "placing"?

In this novel Pynchon merges with the very world he used to menace, and it is sad to realize that this novel will fade just as fast as the sweet vulgarities and passing enthusiasms of the reality it describes. In 10 years' time, *Vineland* will have to be annotated like a Ben Jonson comedy. And even then, no one will find it funny. The show, it seems, is over before it has really begun. We can all go home now and wait another 17 years.



## No sense in worrying

FOR CHILDREN  
Brian Alderson

A FOOT IN THE GRAVE  
By Joan Aiken  
Illustrated by Jan Pienkowski  
Cape, £8.95

"Honestly," said Mum. "If you can't get a group of ghosts to behave sensibly, what hope is there for humans?" What hope indeed! None of the chthonic powers in these eight stories is any way sensible. Malicious perhaps, like old Mrs Wildeve, who tries to kill poor innocent Cherry just because Cherry had seen her trying to pinch a carton of cream. Or vengeful, like the massed hands that spill from Uncle Avvie's black bag and do kill him. And, as Mum said, the humans aren't much better — obtuse, careless, too busy doing the laundry to perceive the terror that is walking about so openly.

The accounts of these dreadful events come in the words of the children who have, at one remove or another, encountered them. The story-telling accents shift from generalized teenage, to vaguely posh, to sketchily Scottish, and this serves to bring the metaphysics down to earth. It may not lessen the impact of the more powerful tales, like "Amberland", a mixture of dream and tragedy, but it can salt others with a dry, nonchalant humour. "It's got fond of us, see," says Janet, finally unable to get rid of the dead high-waisted baby that Aunt Ada insisted on bringing home.

Jan Pienkowski supplies illustrations of suitable eciness. They are, however, composed with high sophistication out of cut-paper collages, and this is rather at odds with the flat or squawky tones of Joan Aiken's child narrators.



Eerie: the ghosts of "an old University Chancellor and a mangy dog"

The bearded Oliver Sacks, so widely recognized as a successful neurologist and writer, is well-placed to play the Ancient Mariner and hold us with his latest thought-provoking tale: deafness in children, a more familiar topic for the layman than the nervous disorders he has written about previously. There is, he writes, one deaf child in every thousand. The inability to hear, if congenital or contracted early in life, imposes a double tragedy: because the early deaf child cannot hear, he also cannot speak. *Seeing Voices* is chiefly concerned with this most serious category, the profoundly deaf.

In 1755 the Abbé de l'Épée, moved by the plight of the impoverished deaf in Paris, founded their first school, the National Institution for Deaf-Mutes. This great humanitarian also invented the first sign language, basing it on the mimistry of the Parisian deaf poor. It forms the basis of contemporary Sign, the system so widely used

## To be Signed but never

today. All the subsequent schools for the deaf in both Europe and America spring from these Parisian origins, and with the founding in 1864 of Gallaudet College in Washington DC, education for the deaf seemed to be progressing well. However, the proposal that they could and should be taught to speak aloud began to find favour, and when Alexander Graham Bell, whose mother and wife were both deaf, lent his considerable authority and expertise to the movement, it took hold worldwide. In 1880 the International Congress of Educators of the Deaf, meeting in Milan, made the sweeping decision officially to forbid the future teaching of Sign. Professor Sacks believes the Milan decision was extremely destructive, and led to a decline in the achievements of the

deaf for the next 75 years. Throughout *Seeing Voices* Sacks maintains that, neither a linguist nor a child specialist, he has been merely an observer with no axe to grind. But his enquiry into the training of the deaf and their acquisition of language led him inevitably to the fascinating but highly controversial theories of Noam Chomsky. Chomsky's is the most recent voice to be heard in the ancient debate: is the human brain capable of innate ideas or is it, at birth, a *tabula rasa*? He has modified his original ideas considerably over the years, but essentially he holds the belief that there may exist in our brains a

"deep grammar" consisting of many hundreds of rules of grammar. It is this grammar, he suggests, "a genius for grammar", and may be able to "construct a grammar from... the parents playing an initial but only facilitating role. It is, or alternatively less controversially, that there exists in the child brain a natural ability to create a grammar." Sacks, combining his enthusiasm for Chomsky with his neurology training, gives some weight to interesting hypothesis. We admit that modern medicine does not yet understand the

With the Berlin Wall in ruins, and the Evil Empire fraying at the edges, is the spy thriller finished? Of course not, but the plethora set against dreary CIA/KGB/is-this-World-War-Three backgrounds should happily come to an end. *Glasnost* can give the genre a welcome shot in the arm if it leads to fresh settings and a new sense of drama.

Ted Allbeury solves the problem by returning to what he knows best — British agents working with the Resistance in wartime France. Philip Maclean is the brilliant leader of an SOE network. The great love of his youth, Anne-Marie Duchard, is now his wife and one of his closest lieutenants. In what seems to be an accolade for his success, Maclean is flown to London for a personal interview with Winston Churchill, who orders him to launch a wave of partisan attacks on the Germans in preparation for an invasion late in 1943. There is no invasion and the network is betrayed — systematically rounded up, tortured, shot. Maclean dies in Auschwitz.

Forty years later, an awkward question in Parliament reveals that all record of this tragedy has vanished. Harry Chapman of MI6 is ordered to France to discover the truth. A surprising number of the agents are still alive, including Maclean's wife, with a bitter story to tell. Can it be that Churchill deliberately betrayed them as part of a sordid deal with Stalin?

As ever, Ted Allbeury captures the life of Parisian café and the French countryside lyrically; his characters are clearly drawn; the wartime atmosphere of bitterness and mistrust pervades everything.

● *War of the Ravens*, by Andrew Kaplan (Century, £12.95). This too tracks back to the Second World War — Buenos Aires in 1939. Will Argentina side with Hitler, giving him the South Atlantic, or stay neutral? The United States has not yet entered the war, but *young* agent Stewart is spying busily, hand-in-glove with a camp Brit called Fowler, when he isn't tucked

Grieving over the death of her cantankerous father, Marianne North found herself alone in their London home with only her dead parent's green parakeet for company. "After a while," she wrote, "it found out I was only a woman, and liked me no more."

Unhappily for Dea Birkett, the closer she drew to her Victorian lady explorer, whose stories she has skillfully meshed into *Spinsters Abroad*, the less she liked them, too. Their greatest sin was to view themselves as "white men", laying equal stress on their colour and their misplaced gender.

This makes them uneasy role models, to say the least. Carrying

I spy a plot problem

THRILLERS

Michael Hartland

A TIME WITHOUT SHADOWS

By Ted Allbeury

New English Library, £11.95

up with the passionate, slim and aristocratic Julia Vargas. The character of Julia is brilliantly etched, rejecting her husband and all he stands for, protecting her hunted lover, and losing her reason when he leaves her.

The Graf Spee arrives to back up the pro-Nazis, and with Stewart's help the Royal Navy ambush her in the River Plate. As espionage the story is pretty thin, but Andrew Kaplan's portrait of a corrupt and neurotic Latin American society is riveting — if you don't throw up. There are a wealth of powerful, if somewhat too anatomical, sex scenes, interspersed with Stewart's hideous torture at the hands of the Argentine secret police. Kaplan relies too much on violence to shock, and goes over the top with the sadistic whipping of a girl for a glowing audience in a nightclub.

The writing has the force of a sledgehammer, but one can be more incisive with a scalpel.

● *Shockwave*, by Colin Forbes (Pan, £12.95). Our hero once again is Tweed, the colourless intelligence officer who has fronted previous Forbes thrillers. This time he is faced with an accusation of raping and murdering a mystery woman in

his flat, and flees into snowbound Europe, accompanied by faithful Paula Grey. In a somewhat unlikely scenario, he is pursued by every Western security service, directed by arrogant politician Lance Buckmaster.

As luckless Tweed zig-zags across the Black Forest being zapped by everyone, does the explanation lie in the hijacking of a ship carrying a giant defence computer? Tweed was responsible for its security — have the Russians nicked it? *Glasnost* has already dated this part of the story beyond repair, but the Buchan-esque pursuit of Tweed just about compensates.

● *The Armalite Maiden*, by Jonathan Kebbe (Heinemann, £12.95). Jonathan Kebbe's first novel is a gritty terrorist thriller, written with the vividness and authority of a man who is going places. The IRA is not a promising subject, but it is tackled here with rare sensitivity and insight. Annie McBride is a Provo activist in her twenties, suddenly horrified by the carnage when she plants a bomb that kills dozens of young soldiers. Their commander, Marcus King, is black, revered by his men, but a pain in the neck to the Army for his unorthodox methods.

As Annie is appalled by the blood-letting, so King is shocked by the military backlash against innocent Catholics in Derry. He is unjustly branded a deserter and pursued across Ireland by two death squads, one SAS, the other IRA, finding an unlikely ally in Annie, who is also fleeing. The two character studies are stark but compassionate; and Mr Kebbe grips his reader with tensions that can only end in tragedy.

● *Writing these round-ups for a couple of months has been a pleasant change from the politics and real-life espionage that I usually cover on these pages. But to go on much longer will have all my fellow thriller-writers taking out a contract on me, so back to non-fiction while I still have, I hope, a few friends...*

Feeling free to dance

Nigella Lawson

JAZZ CLEOPATRA

Josephine Baker in Her Time

By Phyllis Rose

Chatto & Windus, £18

It is the common practice of showbiz stars to dedicate themselves to the purveying of a own myth. It is not so, economy with the truth, as evidence with the fact, that all these to plot their trajectory stardom so as to put maximum emphasis on their even shimmering achievement. Josephine Baker was mistress of own myth, and fantasy played much part in its construction. The facts of the case need embellishment.

Her beginnings are the stuff of legend: the poor black girl from Louisiana who at the age of eight, outskipping to support a new family, the Cinderella, danced her way out of the slums and caught the attention of a American woman on the look for something exotic to take Paris. By the time she was 20, legend had been created. Josephine became "la Baker", whose "classy arabesques" had won over tout Paris.

But this wasn't the only Josephine Baker. Scarcely an older, she wrote her memoirs as novel, then donned the uniform a lieutenant in the Women's Army later to be adorned by the Croix-guerre and Légion d'honneur, became a champion of the

over the gay and lesbian territory. If the joy of themselves, it easily got lost. This is the women's emotional and professional horizons, the paradoxes of their lives emerge: the conflict between duty and a very sensual delight in the unknown; their claims to femininity

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## THE ARTS

## Tears and cheers

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

In the wake of Lord Justice Taylor's terrifying report on the Hillsborough tragedy, *Public Eye* (BBC 2) brought forward a report on football hooliganism which sought out the ring-leaders and talked for the first time to the leader of the new National Football Intelligence Unit, Superintendent Adrian Appleby.

He revealed the military discipline of the most organized hooligan groups, all of whom now appoint field-marshal and apparently see themselves involved in a war game.

The current English disease costs £10 million a year in policing London football grounds alone. As Lord Taylor has noted, there is no other sport in the civilized world at which it is necessary to keep spectators from attacking each other.

There are still no easy answers: those who carry on talking to cameras of their need for the bit of adrenalin — provided by kicking rival supporters in the groin — and the police say that at least 500 recognized hooligans will be among British fans at this summer's World Cup in Italy. The question is, how many more bloodbaths before soccer matches are halted for, I would suggest, a 10-year cooling-off period?

Since Lord Rees-Mogg is warning broadcasters of the dangers of American television rubbish raining down on us, it is perhaps worth recalling that whereas we tend to export our best programmes to the United States, even non-satellite stations here import America's worst. Little of the output of the US Channel 13 public-broadcast network gets shown to us.

All the more reason, therefore, to cheer the return of *Chernobyl*, which last night started a new Channel 4 series and time-slot with its 17th episode. The upwardly mobile yuppie Rebecca is now, to her horror, having erotic dreams about the slothful bartender Sam, the kind of man who keeps his shirt buttoned in order to scratch his stomach. But help is on the horizon in the shape of our very own Royal Shakespearean, Roger Rees, following John Cleese as the series' resident Englishman.

Earlier on 4, Bamber Gascoigne started an immensely lavish short series on the *Great Moghols* — not, you understand, men like Cecil B. de Mille or even Lord George, but instead figures such as Baber and Akbar, founding fathers of the vast Muslim Empire in 16th-century India. Gascoigne's starter for 10 has been at the back of his mind for 20 years since he first started asking questions about the Moghols on *University Challenge*, and the long pregnancy shows in every frame of a richly textured mix of historical lecture and lavish period travelogue.

## Porridge and poetry

RADIO  
Martin Cropper

Lewes Prison is an unremarkable Victorian gaol — 500 cons, 50 of them lifers — with an unusual attraction for the scribbling classes. Five years ago one James Campbell gained permission to set up shop in B Wing, where he daily interviewed inmates and staff for months on end, a project which resulted in his book *Gate Keeper*. And for the past three years Stephen Pollock has been "writing in residence", the word "residence" to be taken equivocally.

*Whispers on the Wing* (Radio 4, Thursday) was an absorbing and evocative documentary that used Pollock's working day to compile a dossier of the autobiographical retellings and special pleading that characterize the idealistic life of those who cannot quite grasp the connection between cause and effect. A well-spoken and often perceptive writer, Pollock's recollections of crime, his rationale being that such places are "filled with failed professors". This does not entirely add up.

Much of the prison population is indeed certifiably educational, subnormal — a circumstance which may well account for their presence — but many cons are brilliant failures, creative accountants and so on who came within an ace of pulling it off.

"Jew know Duncan Campbell?" demanded a Central Casting voice out of *Porridge*. "We done these — or — articles. Nice fella." Mr Pollock proceeded to detail how he was "one hundred per cent fitted up", and to boast of his credentials. "I've had the truth drug. I've had hypnosis... he detector."

Such material makes the rest of Radio 4 sound thin, wan and rather marginal.

The programme was marvellously light on the poetry or "poetry" which (we gather) progressively usurps the correct despatch applied in the correct despatch. Villains must be spitting in his grave. But the balladeers of *Lewes* go! did supply odd moments of illumination. "Someone is having my summer out there," intoned an unnamed Placeman, and the sense of loss appropriate to genuine art came across immediately by the bricks and the changing doors and the degrading stretches that not even the BBC has yet found a way of rendering on air.

John Higgins reviews *Prince Igor* at Covent Garden, and John Percival assesses the choreography

## Red carpet fit for a prince

OPERA

Borodin's *Prince Igor* is back at Covent Garden after half a century and is staged, quite rightly, as an operatic spectacular.

In view of the Royal Opera House's continuing financial problems it might be the last of that breed for a year or two.

Those attending the next seven performances will find massive forces before them, including the much publicized members of the Royal Ballet, expertly handled by the producer, Andrei Serban. Deirdre Clancy's costumes, in their range and glitter, are among the best seen here for a long time and could have pleased Diaghilev himself.

Of course it will be questioned whether *Igor*, notoriously difficult to stage despite familiar music, is worth all the effort and expenditure. And the simple answer is that once the decision was made, the best approach was to show total confidence in it.

Covent Garden has done just that, especially in the matter of casting. Russia and Bulgaria have been raided for all the principal roles and for once there is the authentic Slavic sound on stage. The gain is even greater because one or two singers take on a new power back in their accustomed language: Sergei Leiferkus in the title role, a disappointing di Luna last summer, is quite a different proposition as Igor, and much the same applies to Pasta Burchuladze, who has had his struggles with the Italian language, as Khan Konchak.

The production team of Serban and his old mentor, Liviu Ciulei, is Romanian, and a bit of distance from the Russian history books does not come amiss. *Igor's* world is one of a punishing God, represented by a wooden church spire gutted in the final act after the Polovtsians have been on the rampage. The latter, under Khan Konchak, live beneath a languorous southern sun — Ciulei has produced a ravishing set for Act II, fringed with the sort of reeds Serban used for the Welsh National Opera's *Onegin* on his British debut. But, come sun or snow, the norm in 12th-century Russia is rape, boozing and pillage in that order. Serban made the point fairly graphically with a bit of nudity on stage, which might have caused some of the boozing at the end.

Those who derided might have paused for a moment to admire

the skill with which Serban covered most of the admitted longeurs in *Igor*. His manipulation of stage space, despite the clumsiness of one or two of Ciulei's sets, is exemplary, opening out the action and closing it in almost without effort.

*Igor* himself is a passive figure. His one moment of decision, a choice between honouring his status as a trusted prisoner of the Polovtsians — not a bad place to be a POW if you are of the right rank — or escaping to lead his people again, is perfunctorily treated. But before that comes his great aria of remorse at his failures; Leiferkus, despite a brief dry patch, delivered this with noble tone. At such moments *Igor* reaches towards *Boris*.

Whether it was wise to have his vision of his wife Yaroslava represented at this point in the flesh is questionable. Anna Tomowa-Sintow no longer looks like Borodin's young girl in this melancholic role. She had some vocal control problems in her first aria, but then in the final act, when Yaroslava reckons all is lost for Russia and herself, Tomowa produced some of that radiant soprano sound which for so long bewitched Salzburg.

Down among the Polovtsians, Burchuladze put on a characteristically ripe performance as Konchak, his bass welling up from a half naked torso. As his daughter, Elena Zarembo in her house debut caught the ear at once with a smoky and seductive mezzo — and appearance to match — not often encountered. Alexei Stetsenko as her lover disappointed. The villainous Galitsky is often doubled with Konchak, but Covent Garden cast a second bass in the shape of Nicolai Ghimasev, who was hard stretched to sing his aria while groping a half-naked doxy.

After a shaky start from the sopranos the chorus was in first-class fettle. Bernard Haitink clearly loves this opera, delighting in its raw vigour and its streaks of melancholy. It was a delight to hear the Polovtsian Dances played in the opera house under a top-flight conductor. And for a report on that section of the evening I hand over to John Percival...

John Higgins



Rape, booze and pillage: Khan Konchak (Pasta Burchuladze) incites the Polovtsians to go on the rampage

## A high-spirited Fokine revival

Choreographer David Bintley might have been relieved, when he saw the limited space allowed by Liviu Ciulei's setting, that circumstances had prevented him from creating the new dances for *Prince Igor*.

But for Christopher Newton, given the task instead of putting on Fokine's famous version of the Polovtsian dances with less than six days' preparation, there was the complication that adapting them spatially necessitated reducing the numbers — besides having

lost one of the dances, for reasons of the drama — to an ensemble of chorus ladies and volynists.

In spite of this, or perhaps inspired by all the challenges, there was no lack of spirit from the dancers of the Royal Ballet, even if Stephen Jeffries, as the chief warrior, might have welcomed more time to practise catching his long-bow after hurling it high above him. In these circumstances, he had to rely on personality (no lack of that) and his prowess to dominate the stage, while his six

followers made up in energy what they lacked in numbers.

Bernard Haitink's conducting gave them greater vigour and a more luscious tone than this sequence customarily gets out of context; the Polovtsian youths and maidens benefited from the former quality; the slave girls, featuring Elizabeth McGovern, from the latter. If the dancers had set out to prove that they are not second-class citizens, they made their point.

John Percival

## Depressing chic beyond musical renewal

DONALD COOPER

Valérie Chouanère in fully staged piece *Trois Contes*

A generation ago it was opera that was being written off as a continuing form; now it is the alternative art of "music theatre" that lies on the slab, and it seems rather recklessly brave of Odaline de la Martinez and her group, Lontano, to attempt a revival.

Perhaps that was Vic Hoyland's view, too, for his response to a commission for this double bill is a monologue for Linda Hirst that is no more theatrical than a solo cantata by Hayden or Berlioz.

It is also, in a strictly factual sense, considerably less musical. *La Madre* is a tale by Dario Fo conveyed almost entirely in speech over music for two small ensembles. It is a powerful story of Sicilian peasants heartlessly treated by the bosses, but a story which also exposes the narrator to a kind of danger, even cruelty.

One can imagine what a Glenda Jackson or a Judi Dench might make of it, but Hirst is a quite different sort of artist (no doubt she does a niftier *Le mortuaires* *maître* than either of the other two).

The few stretches of song in the

able fleur, is fully staged, with the assistance of the Parisian troupe *Lentato* under the direction of Elisa Toledo Todd. Ohana's solution to the music-theatre problem is rather like Britten's to draw on the clear precedents of Stravinsky and Noh.

The three little fables are told by a soprano (and engagingly pert and brightly florid Valerie Chouanère) with the help of two women dancers, within a set subscribing to a European notion of Japanese elegance.

The whole thing, indeed, is depressingly chic, and the music, for a band mostly of wind and percussion, cries weakly from Varese, Debussy, Stravinsky's Japanese Lyrics, and Messiaen, quite apart from the wonky quote from the opening of *The Rite of Spring* that suggests a dream momentarily waking to its own lack of substance.

Lontano gave, however, as sure and colourful a performance of this score as of the Hoyland.

There is a further performance tonight.

The companion piece, Maurice Ohana's *Trois Contes de l'honor-*

able fleur, is fully staged, with the assistance of the Parisian troupe *Lentato* under the direction of Elisa Toledo Todd. Ohana's solution to the music-theatre problem is rather like Britten's to draw on the clear precedents of Stravinsky and Noh.

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## RECORDS

# A doomed poet and some bandits

**D**eutsche Grammophon has gone to considerable lengths to make its new *Hoffmann* as attractive as possible.

And it needs to, for the market for Offenbach's posthumously staged opera could scarcely be more competitive.

It has managed to squeeze the sprawling work on to two CDs, with a playing time of just more than two and a quarter hours.

EMI's most recent *Hoffmann* ran to three CDs and almost three and a half hours. Dappertutto is allowed his "Scintille diaman", a popular aria but one whose credentials are more than suspect.

Luxury casting is accorded to some very small roles — Andreas Schmidt as Lindorf, Kurt Rydl as the tavern proprietor Luther and even Christa Ludwig (not in best voice) as Antonia's Mamma. And there is Domingo back in the title role.

But does it all add up to a satisfying *Hoffmann*? Only intermittently. DG has decided to use Edita Gruberova for each of Hoffmann's three loves, but a different baritone for each of the villains who block the path of passion. A little consistency would have helped.

Gruberova is predictably delicious as the doll Olympia, and produces a quite ravishing trill on the death note of the consumptive Antonia. The courtesan Giulietta she finds more difficult. Gabriel Bacquier, who sang all three baritone leads, plus Lindorf, in Decca's set of 1972, here is confined to Coppélius, which he delivers with characteristic gusto. James Morris radiates evil as Dr Miracle, and it is a pity that he could not have been persuaded to take on Dappertutto as well. Justino Diaz does not impress in

## OPERA

**John Higgins**  
Offenbach: *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* Gruberova/Domingo/French National Orch/Czawa (DG 427 882-2) (2 compact discs)  
Offenbach: *Les Brigands* Raphael/Allet-Lugaz/Raffalli/Tremont Lyons Opera Orch/Gardiner (EMI CDS 7 498320 2) (2 compact discs)  
Halévy: *La Juive* Varady/Anderson/Carreras/Gonzalez/Furlanetto Philharmonia/Almeida (Philips 420 190-2) (3 compact discs)

that part: he produces a notably strangled and not very sibilant middle to "Scintille diaman". The other major disappointment is a most unboyish Nicklausse from Claudia Eder, who is easily outpointed by her rival Ann Murray on EMI.



Doubtful Jewess: Julia Varady, mightily impressive in the title role of Halévy's opera *La Juive*

And so to Domingo. He is up against very strong competition: himself. His performance in that '72 Decca *Hoffmann* was superbly lyrical, and the voice some 15 years later sounds a shade dry, especially in the Antonia act. The compensation is a gain in dramatic power of the sort Gedda used to bring to the part — EMI has just reissued on two CDs the 1965 Cluytens set on which Gedda is the prime attraction (CMS 7 63222 2).

Seiji Ozawa has the advantage of a very spacious recording, which he uses to notable effect at the beginning of the Barcarole, but the French National Orchestra does not always respond to the tug of the drama — there have been more theatrical *Hoffmann*s than this. First choice probably remains that old Sutherland set, well remastered by Decca on two CDs (417 363 2), but there is yet another *Hoffmann* on the way from Philips.

Ten years before *Hoffmann* Offenbach wrote *Les Brigands*, a straightforward comic opera with no pretensions but to entertain boulevardiers. It has had the occasional revival in Germany, but is scarcely known in this country. One reason might well be that *Les Brigands* (1869) had quite remarkable resemblances to *The Pirates of Penzance* (1879). Both concern a band of thieves down on their luck and suffering a distinct lack of rich personages to rob; and both feature a posse of doddle-hopping policemen who always turn up too late to make a fair cop.

S. Hillbert, magpie that he was, could have been well aware of what was going on across the Channel.

*Les Brigands* may not have the hit tunes of Offenbach's greatest operettas but it contains a suc-



Too many chefs: Tibère Raffalli, Colette Alliot-Lugaz and Michel Tremont as the robbers in Offenbach's beguiling comic opera *Les Brigands*

cession of utterly beguiling ones, which give the Lyons Opéra a chance to turn out yet another of those recordings which, under John Eliot Gardiner's direction, it seems to produce utterly without effort.

The regulars are all there, including Colette Alliot-Lugaz in the trouser role of the young farmer Fragoletto, Ghislaine Raphael as the girl "he" will inevitably marry, and Michel Tremont as a brigand chef. The latter excels in one of the best numbers of a busy score, the Trio des Mauditions, where the robbers dress up as cooks at an inn on the Rodo-Spanish frontier — a characteristic jolt of Offenbach's prolific librettists, Méilhac and Halévy.

May *Les Brigands* come to

London again one of these days and may the Lyons Opéra go on turning out recordings as spirited, idiomatic and as thoroughly enjoyable as this.

The task of producing a "definitive" edition of *La Juive*, the best-known opera of another Halévy, would provide a mighty task. The Philips version, begun in 1986 and then interrupted by the ill health of José Carreras in the role of Eléazar, Jew and jeweller, carries more than three hours of music. And the cuts have been substantial, as Philips and the conductor, Antonio de Almeida, quite properly acknowledge.

Halévy was an almost exact contemporary of Meyerbeer and *La Juive* was composed on a Meyerbeerian scale: five acts with

a central ballet, massive chorales, a punishing aria for the tenor (the score's most famous number "Rachel, quand du Seigneur") at the end of Act IV when exhaustion is setting in, and a shock denouement when the Jewess of the title turns out not to be a Jewess after all. But amidst the sprawl there is much fine music and not all of it for the fanatical Eléazar, portrayed by Carreras in ringing tones almost too noble for the part. Caruso made his last stage appearance in the part on Christmas Eve 1920, and closer to our time Richard Tucker and Tony Poncet have recorded bits of it.

Both Rachel, the Jewess, and her rival, the Princess Eudoxie, have notable numbers, including the Act III Bolero for the latter,

taken in flowing style by June Anderson. Just before there is a persuasive duet for the pair of them, with Julia Varady mightily impressive in the title role. Halévy's casting is odd: there is a second high-lying tenor part, in which Dalmacio Gonzalez has to struggle less with the notes than with the French, but no baritone role and instead a tough bass assignment for Cardinal Brogni (Ferruccio Furlanetto) who tosses curses through the air like confetti.

Antonio de Almeida, who tackled this opera earlier with Tucker, makes a powerful advocate for the work with the Philharmonia and the Ambrosian Opera Chorus. A hugely enterprising set and a major contribution to the repertoire from Philips.

## Politely sensual

### CLASSICAL

**Hilary Finch**  
Percy Grainger: Piano music for four hands, Vol 1 Penelope Thwaites/John Lavender (Pearl SHE CD 9611)

**T**wo pianists from the land of Oz have set their four hands to the music of the composer, Percy Grainger, and those who have a taste for such things will know exactly what to expect. Or will they? Thwaites and Lavender have unearthed four-hand transcriptions of many pieces never before recorded in these versions.

As well as the inevitable "Country Gardens", the "English Waltz" and the "Lincolnshire Posy", there are curiosities including "Mowgli's Song against the People", reduced from the hefty choral and orchestral version of 1903, and the six-minute "Wraith of Odin".

So spare and plaintively declamatory is this reduction of the original two-chorus and or-

chestra version of part of Grainger's setting of Longfellow's *Saga of King Olaf*, that one wonders how on earth such material could ever have been further inflated.

Thwaites and Lavender bravely bare their big, naked bones. They give a nice introduction, too, to Grainger in the suite *In A Nutshell*, which is just that: Grainger, crazed by the spell of the Orient, Grainger with Edwardian cane-swinging, Grainger of the dotted cross-rhythms, and Grainger the unashamed sentimentalist.

What we do not hear is Grainger the sensualist, the anarchist, the outrageous. Thwaites and Lavender so far prefer to emphasize the gentle and the amiable by, for instance, keeping subordinate material politely in check instead of allowing voices to jostle energetically one against the other. There is not a gladiolus to be seen in this Country Garden: perhaps their subsequent volumes will dare to be more voracious, more robust in their welcome advocacy of Australia's eccentric pianist and composer.

### CLASSICAL UPDATE

Adams: *Fearful Symmetries*, The Wound-Dresser Syvan, Orchestra of St Luke's (Nonesuch 979 218-2)

A disappointment. Adams has done better big-band faragoes than *Fearful Symmetries* and subtler laments than *The Wound-Dresser*: the baritone Sanford Syvan's excellent performance only emphasizes how far we are from the fine conclusion to *Nixon in China*.

Babbitt: *Various works* (CPI CD 521)  
An excellent introduction to the wit and wisdom of Milton Babbitt, ranging from the 1950s to the 1980s, and including electronic music, piano works, a chamber concerto and a set of modern madrigals for six female philosophies.

Kirchner: *Various works* (Nonesuch 9 79188-2)  
A seventeenth-century tribute to a Schoenbergian with his own, very American energy, the Swiss-born Kirchner. He plays his own recent *Piano Pieces* and conducts two big pieces for chamber orchestra: *Music for 12 and the Concerto for violin, cello, wind and percussion*. The muscular and effulgent Piano Trio completes the programme.

## Blowing a flexible trumpet

### JAZZ

**Clive Davis**  
Guy Barker Quintet + Frank Ricotti Holly J. (Miles Music MM078)  
Harry Connick Jr When Harry Met Sally... (CBS 465753)

**W**henever British band-leaders are looking for a reliable and flexible trumpeter, the call usually goes out for Guy Barker. Though only 31, he has been in demand with a whole range of units, from his regular spot in the Clark Tracey Quintet to the starring role in Keith Nicholls's recent concert of *Six Beiderbecke standards*.

Given the chance to lead his own group on vinyl, he has turned in a typically polished display of hard bop. If the gentle waltz of the title tune is anything to go by, he should be encouraged to write more material for Tracey's band.

Otherwise, the main point of interest is "It Never Entered My Mind", where Barker's rounded phrases, laden with unfashionable vibrato, make virtuoso runs which stop short of swamping the original melody. As always, he can rely on capable support from the rhythm section of Tracey, pianist Jason Rebello and bassist Steve Laurence.

Vibraphonist Frank Ricotti appears on three of the six tracks, adding welcome colour to the

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ensemble work. The other lead soloist is Nigel Hitchcock, a teenage saxophonist with intimidating technical skills, particularly on alto. A member of the saxophone quartet, Itchy Fingers, Hitchcock was the recipient of last year's Pat Smythe Award for young British jazz musicians. At times his youthful enthusiasm gets out of hand, but when he is playing within his limits — as on his mid-tempo composition "Life Is A Beach" — he sounds like a true veteran.

The same goes for Harry Connick Jr, the American pianist who made his debut for CBS last year with the aptly titled album, *20*. While most of his contemporaries are still transcribing McCoy Tyner, Connick has gone off on another, more challenging path, inspired by masters from an earlier era. Ellington, Tatum, Garner and even Monk all make their presence felt on his solos.

His contribution to Rob Reiner's comedy film *When Harry Met Sally* gave him the kind of platform that most jazz musicians dream about. The opportunity was not wasted, though Marc Shaiman's over-nice big band charts are something of a hindrance. Connick's keyboard style is heard to best advantage on the trio tracks, where he is joined by bassist Benjamin Jaffe Wolfe and Wynton Marsalis's drummer Jeff "Wooten" Watts. The sardonic "Stompin' At The Savoy" and "It Had To Be You" are delightful stuff. Most startling of all is Connick's singing: rich, confident and worldly wise. If he continues to develop at this pace, he will soon be defecting to become the Sinatra of the Nineties.

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presence of T-Bone Walker on the first set is sure to tempt blues enthusiasts. Pearl Bailey Come On Let's Play With Pearlie Mae (EMI/Roulette DCP-793274-2)  
A beguiling attempt to transfer the singer-comedian's stage act to the recording studio, complete with monologues and asides at the expense of men in general and Louis Bellson's musicians in particular. Originally issued in 1962, the disc is part of the first selection of vintage Roulette albums.

**JAZZ UPDATE**  
Leadbelly Alabama Bound (RCA Heritage Series 90321)  
Apart from some powerful solo numbers, the best reason for investing in this amalgamation of two 1940 dates is to hear the Golden Gate Jubilee Quartet. The extra voices give Leadbelly's work songs even more resonance. Jay McShann Roll 'em (Black & Blue 233022)  
The hour-long compact disc brings together two French sessions by the singer-pianist, from 1969 and 1977. The

## Startled statue

Wagner: *Das Rheingold* Soloists, Bavarian RSO (EMI CDS 7 49853 2) (two CDs)

Wagner: *Die Walküre* Soloists, Bavarian RSO (EMI CDS 7 49853 3) (two CDs)

**B**ernard Haitink's noble *Ring* nobly continues backwards from a noble *Walküre* into a noble *Rheingold*. The pacing is again fundamentally spacious and nearly always secure, the colour so firmly placed and burnished it sounds enamelled. Haitink does occasionally respond to the drama, but when this happens — at Freia's rushing entry in the second scene, for example — there is the embarrassing sense of a monument suddenly alarmed into action. The recording was made shortly after Haitink had been conducting the work in the theatre, however, since that occasion was the unhappy still birth of the Lyubimov *Ring*, there may be good reason why he keeps his mind fixed on the score and builds it as marble symphony.

There are moments where the tempo tests James Morris's production of a long-phased, beautifully sung Wotan, but they really only point up how marvellous he is: authoritative, but young and lyrical, and fully in command of the words. This is altogether a Wotan-centred performance, since in another three roles there are potential or partial Wotans. Theo Adam, a distinguished Wotan elsewhere of course, enjoys casting his voice in a different, bolder character to create Alberich as a weak, unsuccessful school bully who, against all expectation, makes it almost comically base and inadequate in the first scene, he becomes an ugly tyrant. Then there is Andreas Schmidt as a fine Donner, and Hans Tschannner as a Fasolt of grand, certain strength and appeal.

Excellent performances come

too from Marjana Lipovšek as Fricka, pouring out warm tone, from the gravely smooth Fafner of Kurt Rydl, and from Julie Kaufmann, catching all the light against her dim Rheinnidean sisters. Heinz Zednick's Loge is still wonderfully acute and anarchic, though now vocally strained. Peter Haage puts in a Mike Tike advantage (as perhaps Mime would take advantage) of the microphone to whine with a disconcerting intimacy that is certainly in character. And the medium also brings us well-produced sound effects, including a chilling "electronic howl" for the Nibelungs' horror at the ring.

Comparative judgements of *Ring* recordings become more complicated each month, and we have still to hear from Haitink's most obvious rival in the *Vorabend*. James Levine. But anyone's first version probably ought to be the 1967 Bayreuth recording conducted by Böhm, who also conducts — against the efforts of wind, a noisy audience and the orchestra — *Tristan* in a recording made at Orange in 1973.

This was obviously a remarkable night. Nilsson — though near the end of her career as Isolde, and better captured in the 1966 Bayreuth recording, again with Böhm — is still in engulfing, thrilling voice, and Vickers is in peak form. The third act, of course, is the big opportunity for his suffering Tristan, and he sings it in an exultant rage, that rough radiance carrying him all the way from dazedly carried Sprechgesang to full, immense song, the intensity steadily climbing throughout each long paragraph and from each to the next. Other performances are rather blistered into insignificance, but Walter Berry makes sure Kurwenal stands his ground throughout, and by the end even the orchestra is caught up into the passion.

Paul Griffiths

## A new invention makes it possible to clean up old recordings

**R**ecord buyers in this country will soon be able to benefit from No-Noise, a computer-based system which can be used to clean up poor quality recordings. It will be of particular interest to lovers of classical music, jazz, soul, blues, and any other sounds recorded before the development of modern studio techniques.

Companies such as Ace and Charly, which specializes in reissuing records by artists like Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison, are already considering using No-Noise, an American invention marketed in this country by audio company Chop 'em Out.

"The record, or master tape, is loaded into a computer," explains the company's Avi Landenberg, who last week could be seen demonstrating the device at

## Cutting the crackle

MIDEM, the music industry's annual trade fair. "The computer analyses in minute detail the sound signals of old recordings, eliminating the clicks and crackles, and replacing them with what the computer calculates to be the original sounds. It does not filter out frequencies, a common complaint from classical music lovers who have bought their favourite recordings on CD. It merely takes

out excess noise and makes a join which is undetectable."

One of the biggest users of No-Noise is Ryko-Disc, the American company responsible for releasing the best of David Bowie's back catalogue on CD. According to Landenberg, Bowie's recently announced world tour was partly inspired by the sound quality of his newly refurbished recordings.

Meanwhile, certain jazz reissues on RCA bear the No-Noise logo, a way of justifying slightly higher prices. "At up to £100 per minute, the system isn't cheap," Landenberg admits. But for pressings of more than a few thousand its use will soon pay for itself. Once one or two companies have committed themselves, popular demand will dictate that others soon follow suit.

Mike Nicholls

**LINKWORDS by Clive Doig**

Starting with the word PROVE, change one of the letters and rearrange if necessary to arrive at the answer to the next clue. Continue until you arrive at ACTOR. Write down the letter which has been replaced each time: these are an anagram of a 10-letter word.

An adder	PROVE	O
To wind, a conical tapering body	—	—
Put in your money the way your lips go	—	—
Immunization fluid	—	—
The code of the walrus	—	—
A violent assault or weather condition	—	—
Damp and humid	—	—
A follower and disciple of Zeno	—	—
A Puccini opera after Sardou	—	—
	ACTOR	

Anagram clue: difficult to penetrate  
Answer next week

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS**

Occupations: Cooper, Betty Thatcher, a baker, married Tom Butcher, a turner, Liz Butcher, a goldsmith, married Jack Cooper, a baker. (Sarah Goldsmith was either a Thatcher or a Cooper, or married to one who was Alan Turner. Mary Cooper was either a Thatcher or a Cooper, or married to one who was Bill Baker.)

Linkwords: The anagram spell STRIDENTLY. The words were STYLE, SLEET, TENSE, INSET, RESIN, DINER, DRONE, ORDER, ERROR, RETRO, ROVER.

### ROCK UPDATE

Jungle Brothers Done By The Forces of Nature (Warner Bros 26075-1)  
Like De La Soul, Harlem's Jungle Brothers have broadened the emotional scope of rap to include warmth, humanity, humour and variety. Funky but friendly.

Fish Vigil in a Wilderness of Mirrors (EMI EMD 1015)  
Respectable solo debut by the burly ex-Marillion vocalist. The singles, "Big Wedge" and "State of Mind", rock out with untutored conviction, while die-hard fans of the more convoluted, Genesis-style *magnum opus* will not be disappointed by the long-winded "Vigil" and the aptly titled "Cliche".

Diomedes D'Amico The Love Songs (Arista 26044-1)  
The lush arrangements and Warwick's pitching and phrasing are manicured to perfection.

Quireboys A Bit Of What You Fancy (Parlophone PCS 7335)  
Five keel lookalikes slavishly devoted to the Rod Stewart/Faces blueprint, as exemplified by the hits "O'clock" and "Hey You". A fearless, if somewhat derivative, blast of good 'ol white boy rock 'n' roll.

Texans Dames Texana Dames (Sire SNIT 1026)  
Sprightly, hot-blooded and occasionally incongruous concoction of country, cajun, conjunto, salsa and rock 'n' roll from the veteran Charlene Hancock and her daughters Traci Lamar and Connie Hancock.

General Lafayette King of the Broken Hearts (PZA 007)  
Easy-listening collection of Dylan's deliveries, composed, arranged and produced by Roberto Danova and featuring trumpeter Martin Dwyer.

### A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

### BOB DYLAN



astounding breadth and depth, with material ranging from the yearning "I Want You" to the bewdy "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35" and the despairing "Visions of Johanna". Then came the motor bike accident and was Dylan's best album of recent times but it did not have much competition. Of his erratic Savanahs collection in which Dylan invested an exceptional degree of himself, with the bleak, cathartic "Idiot Wind" coming as close as any of his later material does to the raging, sneering glory of his prime.

NEXT WEEK: The Eagles, Echo & the Bunnymen

هكذا من الأصل



# GARDENING

Francesca Greenoak pays a winter visit to Sir Roy Strong's garden in Herefordshire, and finds a surprise round every corner

The curtains of rain lifted at intervals, illuminating my tour of the Herefordshire garden belonging to Sir Roy Strong and Dr Julia Trevelyan Oman, Lady Strong, with moments of dramatic brilliance. It was unwise, perhaps, to have deferred my visit until the winter, but a formal garden seems to have most to offer during these months without the dazzle of flower and foliage.

This garden is a playful, loving place, an expression of the personalities, history and passions of the two people who have created it from nothing during the 15 years since they bought the early-19th century border house and its adjacent field.

To say it is theatrical is a truism — what else would one expect, given the talents and interests of its owners? — but it is a private theatre, designed to give pleasure to the visitor as well as to the owners. Shamelessly exhibitionist, it combines a strong sense of fun with ambitious designs and imaginative planting and ornamentation.

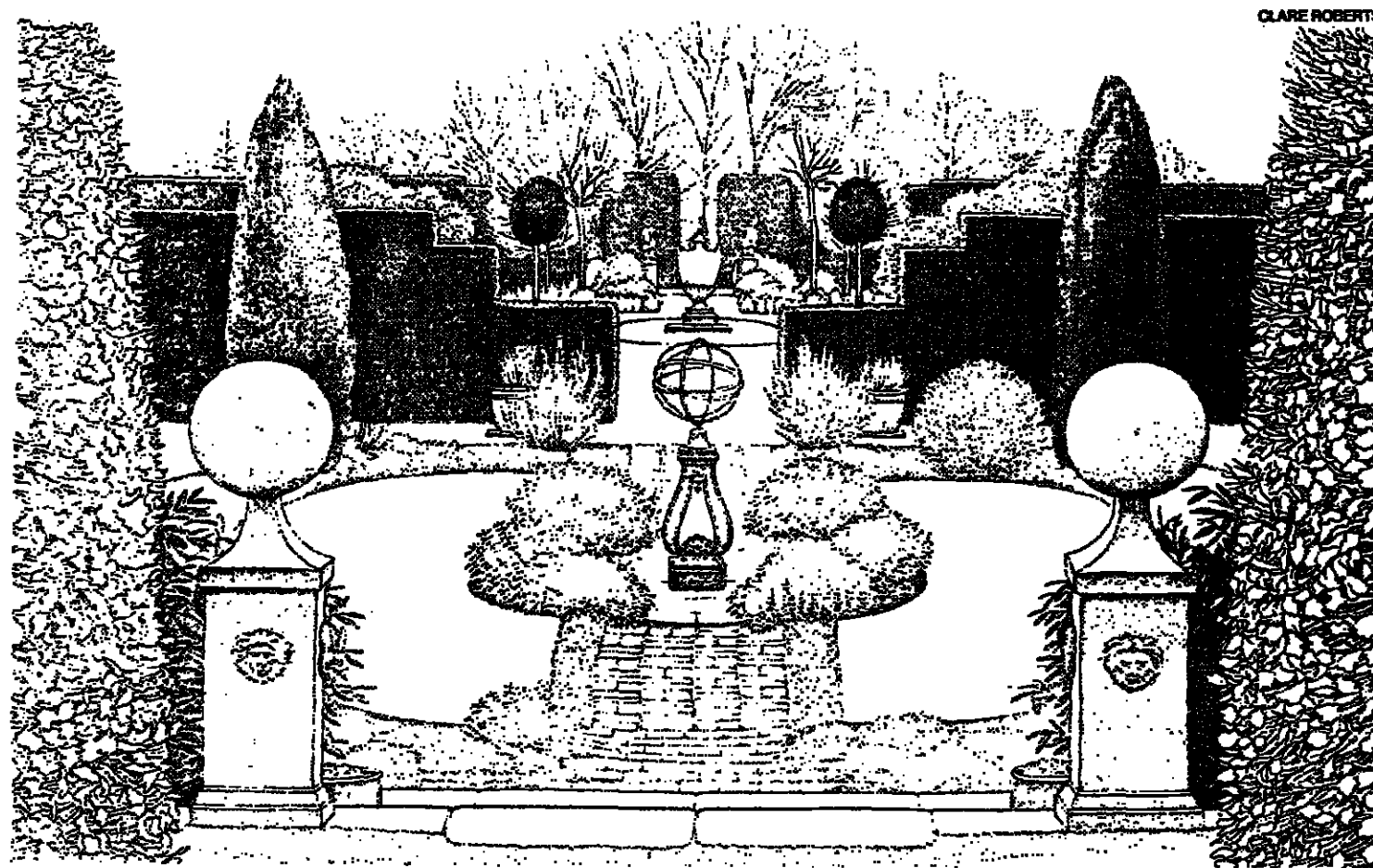
The garden covers three and a half acres, but its extent is concealed. Nowhere is there a plain view in this many-chambered garden, with secret passageways opening to side bays and sudden vistas. There are grand avenues and tall screens of beech hedges, barriers of thuja and Leyland cypress (with crenellated tops) which conceal and reveal surprises at every turn.

The garden is the result of a productive partnership. Sir Roy has often referred to his gardening as a kind of "exterior design". His greatest pleasure is in the structure of the garden, negotiating for the most dramatic effects. His wife Julia brings an appreciation of drama, a genuine feeling for plants. A single white stem, a wisp of a branch, a dozen named snowdrops, just coming into flower, are being coaxed in a nursery bed. She has an enduring attachment to the genus *Malus*, and a diverse range of crab apples and edible kinds are coaxed into many shapes and forms.

This is a garden that is personal, not only in conception but in execution and daily care. One of Julia's favourite walks is along the brick path laid by Sir Roy in the Silver Jubilee garden. Made from house-bricks (not hard edged paving), the path has a crumbly, slightly uneven texture; the kind of detail which gives a garden some of the subtle romance of decline.

The initial masterplan for the future garden has been adhered to with only minor modifications.

## Fine art of formality



The first priority in the early years was to plant the bedding — thousands of tiny trees, scarcely more than sprigs. Although they look frail, tiny trees have a better chance than large transplants of establishing strongly and growing quickly to maturity. This is especially true of yew which is fiercely expensive in large sizes. Little yew trees, if

looked after properly, will reach 10ft in as many years. Within a few years of planting the overall shape of the garden was established, and internal planting and embellishment began.

As the garden grew up there were subtractions from the crowding trees and shrubs, and additions as new ideas took root. Every part of

the garden celebrates a piece of family history or achievement. "Statuary is moved here and there until each piece finds its right spot," says Sir Roy, who starts tours of the garden in the parterre to the east of the house, where a legacy from the Oman family, a weathered limestone spire from All Souls College, Oxford, and a royal

lion from the Palace of Westminster overlook formal box-edged beds thickly planted with bulbs. The Shakespeare urn, bought when Sir Roy won the Shakespeare Prize in 1980, was "the first piece of statuary we put up". It draws the eye westwards, to the end of a grassy avenue planted with tall pleached lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*)

Rubra) and low beech. The small temple, flanked by busts of a very young Victoria and Albert, stands at the top of another long turf alley (on a north-south axis), but this one is informally lined with crab apple trees.

Sir Roy's latest innovations are a small parterre of dwarf box and gravel and a stately "bridge" of paving and balustrading which punctuates divisions between enclosures. The final positioning is "all done by eye — you can only do so much on paper, in the end one needs to be on the ground, moving things about until they look right".

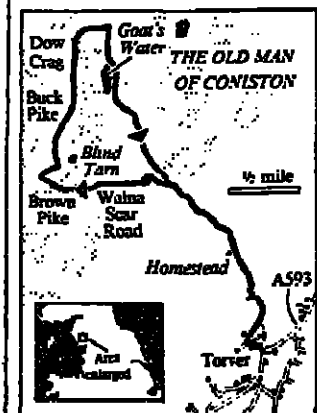
Although large, this is not a particularly labour-demanding garden, "except in late summer when we clip the hedges". Two gardeners work the equivalent of a day a week, trimming and mowing, but the Stronges like to do as much as possible themselves. Sir Roy takes pleasure in the topiary, rounding the heads of formalized crab apple trees and low box balls, and clipping yew birds into shape.

Sir Roy advocates a formal style in smaller gardens, especially those in towns. Creating Small Formal Gardens, his latest book (Conran Octopus £17.99), provides a kind of directory of plans and ideas to this end, drawing inspiration from various periods of fine garden art and from his own experience.

Many of the ideas he has explored in the compartments within his own garden could be reworked within a smaller context — though, of course, you could not capture the surprise and delight of so much diversity. Having admired the principal features, I was pleasantly surprised to come suddenly upon a compact orchard studded with old-fashioned apple varieties: classics such as Margil and Orleans Reinette; rare cultivars such as Bess Pool, the Api Rose of French origin, Kentish Fillbasket; and the sweet, dark red Herefordshire apple called Ten Commandments. Another turn between high beech hedges and you are in a sheltered area, medieval in character with trellised alcoves of trained neartines and peaches.

I have trembled for gardens during the past week of storms but, sheltered by its own mature trees and a network of hedges, the Strong garden, though battered and drenched, suffered relatively little damage. The chief casualty was a mature Scots pine which fell into the Jacobean knot-garden, crushing some box but, by fortunate accident, dropping precisely between a grouping of junipers which had taken 14 years to make the desired effect.

# WALK



Dow Crag, Coniston Fells, Lakeland

When overnight rain washes the air clean, the Lakeland mountains stand out clearly. Jagged-topped Dow Crag rears up, making the walker yearn to stride over the rugged ridge to the summit.

Park at Torver Beck bridge and walk uphill, following the signpost directions for Walna Scar. Climb the cobbled track where quarrymen used to urge their ponies to work.

Pass between two huge heaps of slate spoil and then bear right, passing the great hole of the disused Bankhead Quarry.

Continue climbing the grassy path, always taking the left fork, until you reach a rough, rocky track. This is Walna Scar Road, once used by quarry workers. Turn left and cross Cove Bridge, walking along the track to Walna Scar Pass.

Turn right and climb to the cairn on the summit of Brown Pike. Stride along the path that keeps close to the edge of Blind Tarn. Look down to the small tarn far below. Another cairn denotes the highest point on Brown Pike.

Proceed along the narrow path, peeping down the nearly vertical Eddy Gully and Great Gully. Scramble up the rocks to the top of Dow Crag. Look to the Lakeland mountains in the misty distance and peer cautiously down the great chasm to Goat's Water. Then descend the path to Goat's Haugh.

Turn right off the shoulder and descend the steep rocky track to Goat's Water. Continue beside the tranquil tarn and then down again over rocky slopes to join Walna Scar Road. Turn left. Look out for the grassy path on the right that descends rapidly on the far side of Torver Beck. Soon the big hole and the spoil heaps are reached. Continue homewards.

Mary Welsh

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# SHOPPING

## Life support systems

From can-openers to computers, everyone needs a gadget, whether hi-tech or old-fashioned favourite, as Nicole Swengley discovers

**Nicholas Bonham, auctioneer:** My favourite gadgets are a brass theodolite, dated around 1860, and a turned wooden bobbin. The first cost about £80 and the second about £12. I have them on show at home; they make good conversation pieces.

**Malcolm Green, chairman of the British Lung Foundation:** Anyone who has a tendency to asthma or bronchitis should consider wearing a mask which protects the lungs from smoke, carbon monoxide and so on. (£2, plus 40p p&p, from The British Lung Foundation, Kingsmead House, 230 King's Road, London SW3 5VE.)

**Paul Bailey, novelist:** I have a heavy-duty saucepan which has a separator inside for chips, but I don't like them so I make Creole jam. I also make plum, rum and almond, and asparagus jams.

**Judith Chambers, television presenter:** I take my Mobira portable telephone everywhere with me. It's particularly useful if I'm stuck in a traffic jam.

**Mary Quant, fashion designer:** I was late in discovering spaghetti spoons because they are such ugly-looking things. But now I use one all the time because the whole family are pasta-eaters.

**Clive Arrowsmith, photographer:** I hang a square Perspex oblong around my neck when I'm working. It has a small green luminous phial inside with a bubble but, though it looks like modern jewellery, it is a spirit level. When taking pictures, it's easy to get even New York's skyscrapers crooked. It is made by Sinar of Switzerland.

**Terry Wogan, television personality:** My Swiss Army pen-knife. I like to look at it a lot, and occasionally wave at a passing horse.

**Nanette Newman, actress and writer:** I wouldn't be without my small, compact radio. It's the best thing in the kitchen, or when doing something really boring.

**Manolo Blahnik, shoe designer:** I rely on my fax the whole time for work. My life has completely changed since it arrived. I used to go to Milan four times a month, now I need to go only once. I have one at work and one in my bedroom.

**Marie Helvin, model:** I would not be without my bread-making machine.

**Roddy Llewellyn, landscape designer and writer:** Although I am not a great cook, kitchen gadgets hold a fascination for me. My lemon zester is not only fun to use but the resulting zest adds that *je ne sais quoi* to puddings and other dishes. I love the way it produces those squiggly worms. Unfortunately, the fruit, once zested, looks so sad.

**Anita Roddick, director of The Body Shop:** I never travel anywhere without my Sony Walkman. It's invaluable for long flights. The music relaxes and inspires me.

**Rifat Ozbek, fashion designer:** My favourite gadget is the television set's remote channel changer. It's really like a magic wand.

**Nick Ross, BBC radio and television presenter:** My Apricot word processor and printer make writing a joy. When you have to change the words constantly it can be a complete pain using a typewriter.

**Clare Francis, novelist:** Despite recent scares, I think the microwave oven is the answer to a working mother's prayers.

**George Melly, musician and writer:** I have a simple, never-fail, bottle-opener called a Water's Friend. You screw it into the top and the arms rise up like a Max Ernst statue.

**Ian McEskil, BBC weatherman:** My Vacuum is absolutely terrific. It creates a vacuum inside a bottle of wine

and seals it properly so that the wine stays in perfect condition. As I prefer to drink a glass or two at meals rather than a whole bottle, I've found it very useful.

**Martin and Graham Bell, brothers and men's downhill ski racers:** Martin: An alarm clock you can shout at and it will stop ringing. Graham: The television set remote control.

**Nicholas Parsons, television and radio presenter:** My Supercall telephone is invaluable. You can program 20 different numbers and it has a calculator and a clock. I punch in the number and it calls it up. I can talk into the phone without picking up the receiver.

**Frances Bissell, writer and The Times cook:** My La Pavoni Casa espresso coffee machine cost just under £100 and adds greatly to the quality of life in the kitchen. It has easy-clean rounded edges and heats up quickly. I enjoy the ritual of the morning cup of cappuccino, first heating the cup, then frothing the milk and finally watching the drops of espresso staining the white foam. It takes forever compared with the *cafetière* but I love it.

**Robert Kilroy-Silk, writer and television presenter:** I like my electric swimming-pool cleaner because it takes away all the drudgery.

**Patsy Kensit, actress:** My favourite and only gadget is an American juicer. Patsy's husband, Dan Donovan, the photographer son of Terence Donovan, adds: My favourite gadget is an Agenda electronic organizer, which combines minicomputer, diary and address book. But I'd like a laser beam — useless but fun.

**Edna Romy, fashion designer:** After seeing *Breakfast At Tiffany's*, I was completely mesmerized and, on my first trip to New York, I went into the shop determined to find something beautiful to remember it by. I bought a pen, and it has been with me now for 10 years; it's a mix of fond memories, practicality and beauty.

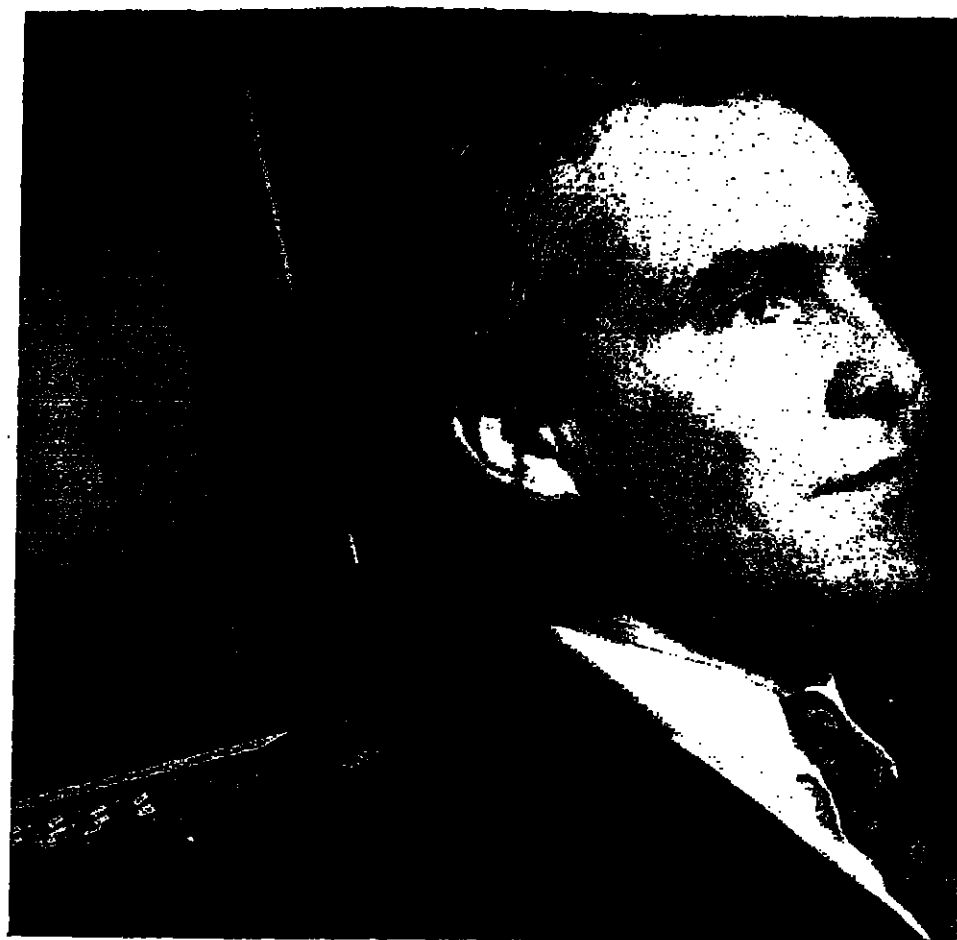
**Pru Leith, restaurateur and food expert:** My favourite gadget costs less than 50p. It's one of those ugly plastic spoons with a hole in the bowl and teeth all round. It's useful for lifting eggs out of water and spaghetti out of pans.

**Sir Terence Conran, chairman of Storehouse:** The Factory is a gadget that has everything you need in your life, such as scissors, a hole-punch, stapler, paper measure, can-opener, staple-remover, tape dispenser, magnifying glass, and so on.

**Tina Turner, singer:** In my Range Rover I have a compact disc player embedded in the boot. I punch in my CD requirement on a gadget on the dashboard and enjoy



**Christopher Wray, lighting retailer:** My favourite gadget is a big, old brass corkscrew, like they used to have in pubs. When you pull the lever it takes the cork off and drops it into a bin. It is a collector's item now, and worth around £250



**Stephen Bayley, founder of the Design Museum:** My whole life is designed as a revenge against chaos, so I think my favourite gadget would have to be my Toshiba portable computer. It's smart, well-designed, powerful and folds to a size smaller than an attaché case



**Barbara Daly, make-up artist:** Because I am almost as blind as a bat, I would be totally lost without my Itoya pocket lens. It's about the size and shape of a credit card and I use it constantly for reading small type. It is made in Japan, though I bought it in the United States

listening to Neville Brothers' soundtrack from *Blade Runner*, or "Rei Momo" by David Byrne. The gadget is really an anti-theft device. There's no sign of a CD in the car at all.

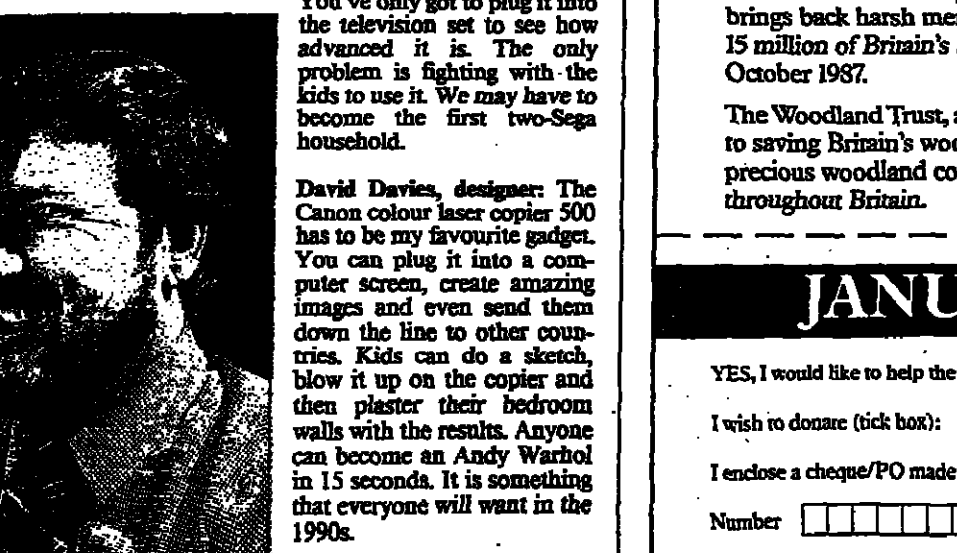
**Elaine Paige, actress:** I like the Franklin computer Spelling Ace, because I love words. I like to learn a new word every week. You punch in what you think is the spelling of a particular word on the keyboard and I've been pleasantly surprised that my spelling is more often right than wrong. Because it is only £10 by 4in it's a boon when travelling.

**John Stephaniadis, interior designer:** My tuffe-grater. It is very important to have the right instrument when you're preparing them.

**Bonnie Langford, performer:** I wouldn't be without my eyelash curlers. After all, nothing else can do the job as well.

**Terry Jones, owner of Authentica, the London style shop:** The American Culinarius 4000 food mixer is very heavy and stable with its chrome base and glass jug. It is simple to use and works brilliantly.

**George Davies, farmer chairman of Next:** There is a field near my home in Leicestershire where I've planted trees. I didn't realize it would need mowing so often — it's five acres — so I would say that my



**David Davies, designer:** The Canon colour laser copier 500 has to be my favourite gadget. You can plug it into a computer screen, create amazing images and even send them down the line to other countries. Kids can do a sketch, blow it up on the copier and then plaster their bedroom walls with the results. Anyone can become an Andy Warhol in 15 seconds. It is something that everyone will want in the 1990s.

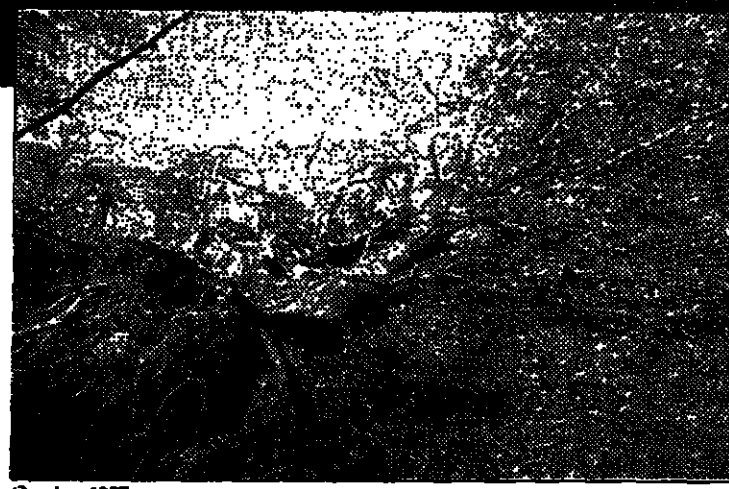


**Su Pollard, actress:** I like my Magican tin-opener. It's so much better than the old-fashioned type that you have to dig into the lid. When I found how good it was I rushed out and bought six tins of baked beans and six tins of spaghetti — and opened them all at once



**Paul Smith, fashion designer/retailer:** My limited edition Olympus O camera is made of stainless steel and, though not strictly a gadget, is the first design to come out of Japan with retrospective styling. Though hi-tech and fully automatic, it has that old-fashioned look

## JANUARY 1990 STORM APPEAL



October 1987

Just as the devastating scenes from the hurricane of October 1987 are beginning to fade from our memories we are once again reminded of how terribly vulnerable our lives and our environment are to freak weather conditions.

The storm which swept Britain last week brings back harsh memories of when over 15 million of Britain's trees were ravaged in October 1987.

The Woodland Trust, a national charity dedicated to saving Britain's woods, owns over 400 areas of precious woodland covering thousands of acres throughout Britain.

Following the 1987 hurricane the Trust appealed for over £½ million just to make its woods safe again for public access and to begin the task of turning the devastation into restoration.

The Trust is still assessing the damage caused by this year's storms but it is already clear that extensive funds will again be needed for immediate safety work such as clearing fallen trees.

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## JANUARY 1990 STORM APPEAL

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# Sky falls in on Coe and co-stars

ANGLAND

A decade of excellence ended yesterday, Sebastian Coe's last hurrah faded out (this was especially sad for the people with the "Seb for PM" banner) when he failed to appear for the 1,500 metres heats. A sad way to go, at the end.

This is the way the athlete ends

Not with a bang but a groin strain.

As T. S. Eliot would not doubt have expressed it, though in fact Coe's problem was a viral infection that had given him lumps on his neck and (ugh) around his groin.

It was obvious the day before that something was wrong. He was patently not himself in the 800 metres final he looked drawn and out of sorts afterwards. This made yesterday distinctly weird: we began with much speculation about the Coe no-show business, and then the England team manager, John Jeffery, made the extraordinary statement that he had withdrawn Coe against Coe's wishes: "I virtually had to drag him off the track."

I must say I found the idea of Coe doing anything at all that he did not wish to completely unacceptable. There was no question but that he was deeply disappointed but the idea of his being ordered not to run was bizarre. And Coe said later, more reasonably: "Ultimately, it is down to the athlete. My decision is my own."

Peter Elliott took over Coe's position as England's most prominent runner in the 1,500m and he could even have been narrow favourite for it. He said yesterday: "I want to keep the flag flying for Great Britain. Maybe it's my turn to take over the mantle." Elliott is a first-class athlete, no doubt about that. But he is first class of the second class. He has never shown himself



Simon Barnes

likely to take that last and most difficult step from excellence into greatness: to breathe that rarefied air of the country where Coe, Ovett and Cram have lived in their time. We have grown to expect middle-distance medals as a kind of Natural British Right. The absence of the Africans in the 1984 Olympics helped sustain this belief: but more important were the annual displays of superb running and spectacular victories, with the annual rivalries fought out only on the very biggest of occasions.

The three of them were all first-class athletes, all genuine stars whose names drew spectators to the track, attracted Pled Piper hordes with biros and filthy bits of paper, and made millions switch on the television.

Ovett was the first to go, now Coe has followed. Cram is trying to work his way back from injury. These top athletes spend more time with physios and doctors than Formula One cars spend with mechanics and engineers but it will be a great surprise to us all if he regains his past excellence. The decade of middle-distance invincibility really does seem to be over.

It was, in a way, inevitable that Coe's final farewell should fizzle out like this. They always want one fight too many, don't they? You admire the spirit but shake your head at the wisdom of it. They never come back... but I know one athlete who did. After a viral complaint, too. His name, of course, is Coe: winner of a gold medal at the Olympics in 1980 and then laid low in 1982 and 1983. The comeback to win gold again in

1984 was a triumph of ability, a triumph of the will.

This Games seems to be one of transition. We have grown accustomed also to excellence in the women's javelin: Tessa Sanderson won gold but she must now be very near the end of her career.

She, too, has had a long-term rivalry with another athlete of similar quality — strange how excellence in events often comes in multiples. Athletes always deny that their rivals are a stimulus and then they go out and bust a gut to beat each other.

But Fatima Whitbread looks a shadow of herself after her drastic shoulder op and one is entitled to wonder if she will ever be a force again. Here is another area of excellence, one which we have got used to, and which is disappearing before our eyes.

It seems likely that we may be entering a fallow period in these two events, perhaps especially in middle-distance

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running. This last is a special blow for spectators. The 1,500m is called "the blue ribbon event" though not because it is harder than anything else (that is probably the 400m, which gives an athlete the impression after 300m that he is breathing pure cement).

It is because it is the most dramatic: an entire playlet of rivalry and ambition is performed in the engagingly brief three and a bit minutes. Racing at this distance is almost always compelling and does not tax the average person's concentration span too hard.

I have no wish to say any bad things about Elliott, especially as he looks in terrific shape right now. But he need

## COE'S CAREER

BORN: London, September 28, 1956

PERSONAL BESTS: 800 metres: 1min 41.73sec, 1,000 metres: 2:12.18, 1,500 metres: 3:29.77, Mile: 8:47.33, 2 miles: 17:42.33 (1979), 1:41.73 (1981), 1,000 metres: 2:13.40 (1980), 2:12.18 (1981), 1,500 metres: 3:32.03 (1978), Mile: 8:48.95 (1979), 3:48.53 (1981), 3:47.33 (1981).

CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1980 Olympic Games: 1,500 metres, 1984 Olympic Games: 1,500 metres, 1985 European championships: 800 metres.

Not feel he has to bear the weight of all British hopes for athletic excellence.

If you seek excellence — not mere success but enduring success, the kind of success that lasts from one championship to the next — then turn away from the traditional stronghold of middle-distance running and feast your eyes on the bold black boys of the sprints.

We had Linford Christie to show the way. He will be 30 this year and he is one of the greats. But now there is a generation of young lions all around him. Marcus Adam won a blistering 300m race on Thursday and said afterwards: "I can see a lot more guys breaking the 21sec barrier this year."

There is also John Regis and Ade Mafe, who completed a clean sweep for England in the 200m. Colin Jackson and Tony Jarrett are world-class in the high hurdles.

In other words, it seems that the traditional focus for excellence has changed: the black sprinters of the United States that have set the world's standards for years. Now there is a generation of black Brits to take them on.

We shall have to see how the generation develops. But a decade of excellence in the sprints would be something worth cheering about.



Not with a bang but a whimper: the moment the world ended for Coe as Jeffery broke the news

# Walking a line between fitness and frustration

By John Goodbody

The illness that compelled Sebastian Coe to withdraw from the 1,500 metres at the Commonwealth Games emphasized once again how a finely tuned athlete is constantly on a tightrope between supreme fitness and physical breakdown.

Although it is said that such a glorious career should end in such anti-climax, much of Coe's 14-year span as an international runner has alternated between Olympic gold medals or world records and illness or injury.

In 1982, Coe suffered from a rare blood disease, toxoplasmosis, which probably caused him to come only second at the European

Championships and also cost him a place at the 1983 World Championships.

He was ill after the heats at the 1986 Commonwealth Games. He also missed the 1987 World Championships with injury, and he was not selected for the 1988 Olympics, when he had hoped to defend his 1,500 metres title, after unsuccessfully experimenting with altitude training. Yet he has taken the most elaborate care during training, being regularly monitored since the toxoplasmosis was first diagnosed in 1983.

Nor is Coe's history unique. Many leading athletes have undergone similar experiences; they include his British middle-distance rivals, Steve

Ovett, Steve Cram, David Moorcroft and Peter Elliott.

Dr Mark Harries, the director of clinical services of the British Olympic Association medical centre, said yesterday that any top international "understands his body. He knows if he is slightly ill, although he may not always be able to specify what is wrong. I might feel slightly below par but still be able to go to work and lead an ordinary life."

A leading athlete will also be psychologically affected by the knowledge that he is not 100 per cent fit, particularly at a major event. Dr Harries said there was not quite the same sort of pressure in team as in individual sports, because the effort was collective.

In addition, particularly in professional sport, players were keen to drop out of teams because they feared they would be unable to regain their place. For instance, League footballers can "carry" injuries for weeks or even months at a time.

In major international athletics, a few hundredths of a second can often over the top half-a-dozen competitors: being slightly off-colour can be the difference between finishing first and being an also-ran.

Even a simple cold can lead to a marked diminishment of physical and intellectual powers — according to work done at the Common Cold Unit in Wiltshire — and make a loser out of a winner.

Top-class sportsmen, Dr Harries said, had been known for some time to be more prone to illness than ordinary people.

The most recent study to be published in *Clinical Sports Medicine* is by Dr Bo Berglund, of Sweden, who has detailed how there is a higher incidence of infectious diseases, particularly upper respiratory ones, in cross-country skiers than in other people.

At the BOA medical centre at Harrow, Dr Richard Budgett, the 1984 Olympic gold medal winner in rowing, is developing a thesis of Professor Eric Newsholme, of Oxford University, concerning the relationship between

over-training and under-performance.

A number of competitors have been found to have a low level of an essential amino acid, glutamine, which is vital for the white cells that defend against infection. It is possible that in some cases the demands of training and competition have outstripped the normal food supply.

Research has also found that competitors have a low level of testosterone and a high level of cortisol, the stress hormone, following vigorous exercise. Dr Harries said: "This, too, might give rise to a susceptibility to illness."

It is possible for an outstanding competitor to be fit but on the verge of ill health

simply because he is leading an abnormal life by training and competing so intensively. Too often, the public has confused the fit with the healthy.

## Trice twice

Washington (AFP) — Simon Brown, of Jamaica, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) welterweight champion, has agreed to give Tyrone Trice, of the United States, a second chance to take his crown. The two will meet on April 1, but the venue has yet to be decided. The referee controversially stopped the first bout between the two boxers for the vacant title in April 1988 at Berck in France in the fourteenth round. Brown has since successfully defended his title six times.

## Larkins discovers a batting paradise nobody expected

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Basseterre, St Kitts

England have never before played a tour match in St Kitts and, on yesterday's evidence, they could be forgiven for thinking they had strayed outside the Caribbean.

What they had found was a bland, pain-free pitch, which obliged the Leeward Islands to employ the last resort of spin, some half hour before lunch.

By then, Graham Gooch and Wayne Larkins had proceeded serenely past 50. The bat was hardly beaten, the ball seldom struck in the air. With the Caribbean's traditional tourist lure much in evidence, Gooch and his players had apparently discovered a paradise far removed from the stressful existence they had been led to expect.

Even allowing for the suspicion that this is much too good to last, it was a heartening way for England to begin their first-class programme. No one can have felt more relieved than Gooch. Larkins' selection was very much Gooch's proposal, and with no third opener in the party, the success of their alliance is paramount in the England strategy.

For an hour, after Gooch had won the toss, his partner looked to have traded in his identity. He had made only eight when, as if sensing there was nothing here to inhibit him, he took the Leeward's newest pace prodigy, Hamish Anthony, for 14 runs in four balls.

England had been tempted to include both their slow bowlers, and they may regret declining to do so. The Leeward's, like every other team here, put out four fast bowlers, two of them Test players, but there was soon a hint of resignation in their tread.

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Charlie Griffith, kept Larkins quiet for a protracted period. Gooch was massively authoritative, as he must be throughout this tour if England are to have any realistic chance. Cover-driving fluently, he also whipped Winston Benjamin — no relation — disdainfully for four over square leg.

Spin arrived in the shape of Noel Gushard, aged 32, and a native of this lovely island. He turned the odd ball slowly but by lunch, the first wicket was worth 79 and the session had been convincingly won.

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## The Scots lion can hardly take heart

By Roddy Forsyth

Scotland, whose progress in the European Championship has never extended to a place in the finals, found themselves in a daunting company when the draw for the qualifying sections of the 1992 tournament was made yesterday in Stockholm.

The ballot placed the Scots in group two along with two Eastern European sides, Romania and Bulgaria, as well as Switzerland and the unknown quantity of San Marino. Only one side from each of the seven sections will qualify, along with the host country, for the finals of the championship, which will take place in Sweden.

On form, Romania are the strongest side in the section and, like Scotland, have qualified for the World Cup finals in Italy this summer. Last time the countries met, at Hampden Park in March 1986, the Scots won 3-0 in a match which marked the hundredth international appearance of Kenny Dalglish.

Gordon Strachan scored the opening goal and this was supplemented by two members of the present Scottish squad, Aitken, the captain, and the Rangers defender, Gough.

Whether the unrest in Romania has had any effect on the team's performance remains to be seen, but in a World Cup warm-up match on Thursday the Romanians were beaten 3-0 by Pisa, of the Italian second division.

Scotland also encountered Bulgaria in their last European Championship, with heartening results overall. Although the Bulgarians achieved a

goalless draw in Glasgow in September 1986, Andy Roxburgh oversaw a 1-0 victory in the return match in Sofia a year later.

It was the first time that the home team had been beaten in their capital for five years and Mackay's match-winning goal guaranteed the Republic of Ireland a place in the finals for the first time, at the expense of the Bulgarians.

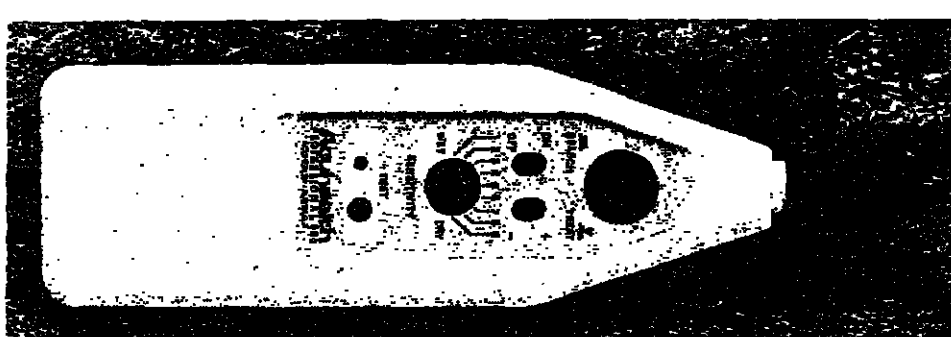
Scotland and Switzerland were also European Championship rivals in November 1982 when the Swiss won 2-0 in Bern and the teams drew 2-2 at Hampden six months later in a match memorable for an outstanding goal from Nicholas, struck on the run from 25 yards.

The joker in the pack is San Marino, who have been permitted entry to the tournament for the first time. The last of the old independent republics of Italy, San Marino consists of a land-bound enclave with a population of 22,000, located a short distance from Rimini on the Adriatic coast.

San Marino's contribution to football has largely consisted of the issue of vividly coloured commemorative postage stamps but their significance in a tightly contested qualifying group will revolve on how many goals they concede to each of the other contenders.

In a section which seems likely to be settled on goal difference, the Scots cannot take heart from their previously poor scoring record and the supposed minnows of the football world.

Simon Barnes's sporting diary, page 10



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Acuhealth

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健康之道

## Anti-tour march goes ahead

From Richard Streeton, Pietermaritzburg

It will be a few days before it becomes clear whether the tour by the English cricketers is affected by the sweeping reforms in South Africa announced by President F W de Klerk in Cape Town yesterday. Today's planned protest march by 5,000 trade unionists and other political and community groups from the city centre to the team's match with a South African Invitation XI is still going ahead.

Mike Gatting's players were originally booked to stay in a hotel in the centre of Pieter-

maritzburg. For security reasons, however, they were switched during Wednesday evening to a beach resort outside Durban some 50 miles away. They finally arrived at 3am after an eight-hour coach journey from Bloemfontein.

This weekend's three-day game is the last chance for the English XI to find form before the two five-day internationals take place in Johannesburg and Cape Town. In particular it will be important for the batsmen — apart from Gatting and to a lesser extent Athey and Broad

— to find their touch after unconvincing performances in the first two fixtures.

The Invitation XI are the strongest opposition met so far. They are led by Roy Pinnar, who with 678 runs at an average of 61.63 finished the Currie Cup programme as the leading scorer. Pinnar, who plays for Kent, is the only South African international appearing. Brian McMillan, the all-rounder, who is also playing for South Africa next week, has been withdrawn from this match to keep his bowling hidden from Gatting's players.

## SWINGING IN THE RAIN

There is something exciting about the Tahitian island of Bora-Bora that even torrential rain cannot dampen, as Michael Watkins discovered. And he had three non-stop days of it. In Bora-Bora, being wet was almost a South Seas celebration. Page 58

## TUCK OF THE IRISH

Hospitality seldom comes with more charm than in the log fire warmth of Irish country houses. Ann Morrow enjoyed the fresh air and the fresh food on a tour of the island. Page 57



## LIFE AFTER HUGO

French fashion models had Guadeloupe virtually to themselves when Ros Drinkwater visited the Caribbean island. Although much of the damage caused by Hurricane Hugo has been repaired, the message has not yet got through to many travellers. Now could be a good time to visit. Page 60



RUGBY UNION: CARLING LEADS HIS MEN WITH CONFIDENCE TO PARC DES PRINCES AS SCOTLAND START THEIR CAMPAIGN WARY OF AN IRISH REVIVAL

# Paris match should hold no fears for Englishmen abroad

From David Hands  
Rugby Correspondent  
Paris

It is a year or two since one of the four home unions emerged from the Parc des Princes with victory. Though the four of them combined did so, by two points last October, 1982 marked the last year that a five nations' championship win was recorded here, and that by England who did so two years earlier as well, during their grand slam season.

But it is not a ground which holds any fears for England, unlike the Cardiff graveyard. Indeed, they enjoyed the atmosphere: "We are Englishmen abroad, Paris is a great city to come to, the facilities are a bit special, it's an occasion," Roger Uttley, the coach, said yesterday after his players had concluded training at La Boule where the playing surface was remarkably firm after a night of heavy rain.

Indeed on their last visit England could, and should, have won, rather than losing 10-9 to a breakaway try by Laurent Rodriguez with only seven minutes left. That game in 1988 was the start of Will Carling's international career, now he is captain and one of the significant changes to have emerged since then, is the increased responsibility which all the players take in training — Carling as captain, Moore as pack leader, and the likes of Ackford and Teague, as senior players.

Much may depend upon those last three: the lineout and the loose will be significant areas and, in the aftermath of England's win over Ireland a fortnight ago, there

## FIVE NATIONS' TABLE

England	W	D	L	Pts
France	1	0	0	2
Wales	1	0	0	2
Ireland	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0

FIXTURES: Today: Ireland v Scotland; France v England, February 17; England v Wales; Scotland v France, March 3; Wales v Scotland, France v Ireland, March 17; Scotland v England, March 24; Ireland v Wales.

was concern that it had taken so long to overcome the difficulties Ireland presented at the lineout. There was a lack of communication which should not recur, even amid the firecrackers and bands of the Parc.

Teague is to be used as a support, rather than primary jumper as he was last season when playing at flanker and I imagine Skinner will adopt a roving role, as much at the front as at the back which would lead Dooley to oppose the tall French back markers.

The fact that Berzizer, the French scrum-half and captain, also throws into the lineout will help England since his lobbed throwing is not the most accurate feature of his game.

Not that England have anything other than respect for the little man. "He is one of the great tacticians of the game, in a crucial position on the field," Uttley said. "He could influence things enormously. We must make sure he is not given the latitude to do so. At the back of the lineout we are not as tall as the French but it's always a dodgy area, particularly if conditions are difficult."

"We have played in the past without great height at the

back and we should be able to cope." Four of the English pack, Winterbottom, Teague and the two props, played under Berzizer's leadership in South Africa last year so they should be familiar with his methods.

They will be equally familiar with Denis Charvet, who was also part of that international tour party and unveiled a capacity for goal-kicking entirely unforeseen by those of us who were unaware of his points-gathering feats for Toulouse, his club.

Charvet has yet to lose in a championship match in Paris — this is his eighth — but this will be the first time he enters a game as first choice kicker. "I like to kick," he said. "I enjoy watching the ball pass between the posts and ever since I was young I have had a ball in my hands or at my feet. I hope that my South African experience will help me and, since Monday, I have tried to think of nothing except the first kick that I will attempt."

The team that wins this championship will be the one with the most successful goal-kicker and, in the concession of points, England have been miserly. In last season's championship only 27 points were scored against them and the clean sheet against the Irish last month was encouraging, though the number of penalties conceded was not.

England had as many penalties or free kicks awarded against them (13) as they were given themselves and it was their good fortune that Michael Kiernan had an off-day with his three attempts at goal. The team management has emphasized the necessity for reducing that number (coincidentally on their last visit to Paris, both countries were penalized 12 times by Owen Doyle, the Irish referee who has charge again today).

Although the French are sure to repeat a tactic which can produce penalties, the high ball to the full-back which has the forwards scurrying back desperately to defend.

"We are trying to develop a game and a pattern of play," Uttley said, "which will suit the conditions, the nature of the opposition and the demands of the referee on any given occasion. This game will be another indicator on whether we are making progress in that direction."

If they are to do so, England must throw off the inhibitions apparent in the opening game and attack France with all, not some, of the weapons at their disposal; if they believe they have good backs they should use them, judiciously of course but not as a final resort.

It is an attitude of mind as much as anything else and if they win today — as they have the capacity to do — then their confidence will be hugely enhanced for the remaining championship games.



Handling with care: Gascott considers whether to pass or run the ball during the England training session on a firm playing surface at La Boule yesterday

## Scots prepare to make the most of their belated entry

From Gerald Davies, Dublin

No broader smile was observed during the whole of last season's championship than that of Bob Monro, convener of the Scottish selectors, at the press conference after his team's win against Ireland at Murrayfield.

It was not so much the victory that brought a twinkle to his eye, rather that so many scholars of the game, who had been impatient enough to conclude beforehand that the two participating teams were no more than "average" of rugby football, had been proved so wrong. With this in mind, it would be a foolhardy observer who would make such a hasty appraisal of today's game, sponsored by Digital, between the two teams at Lansdowne Road.

But this fixture, often erroneously considered as an also-ran contest for the championship when contrasted with simultaneous events at either Parc des Princes or Twickenham, produced eight tries last season. The bold enterprise seen in Edinburgh in March can be measured by the quality of the running which saw Scotland go ahead by 19-6 during the first half only for Ireland to go into a 21-19 lead by the interval. It was the most vividly entertaining game of the whole season and it has rarely failed to satisfy on other occasions, either.

In the three-quarters, Ireland bring back Brian Smith, the Oxford University stand-off half, who won his first cap against the All Blacks only to be dropped in favour of Peter Russell for the England game.

In the front row, John Fitzgerald replaces the hapless Halpin who had such an uncomfortable time at prop against Ireland at Twickenham. The two changes should strengthen the team which seems to be at its weakest in these respective areas.

However, Francis, who had exerted some influence in the Irish pack then, is left out for Leinster to return to win his 44th cap. This should bring some security to the scrum but could give something away in the lineout.

If Ireland are still looking to

find a settled team, not so Scotland. Apart from a couple of adjustments it is the same team as last year. Bods played at full-back then as a result of Gavin Hastings' injury which kept him out for the whole championship season.

Tony Stanger, on the right wing, plays for the first time in the competition. However, he has enjoyed a thrilling baptism already in international rugby. He scored twice against Fiji in October and collected another three tries against Romania. Neither match could be said to have the intensity of today's.

Chalmers, who missed the match against Romania after an operation to his cartilage, resumes his partnership with

Armstrong at half-back. The pack of forwards is the same as that of last year.

The championship begins for Scotland today, whilst Ireland, after their loss at Twickenham, must win if the remainder of the season is to have any meaning for them. Jimmy Davidson, the Irish coach, is undeterred by that failure which gave England their second highest margin of victory against them.

He points out that what turned out to be so conclusive a victory for England only began in the 73rd minute of the game when the home team, at the time, only held a 7-0 advantage. It is a backlash from this that Scotland must beware.

## TODAY'S TEAMS AT LANSDOWNE ROAD

Ireland	15	Full Back	Scotland	15
K Murphy	15	Full Back	A G Hastings	15
(Constitution)			(London Scottish)	
M J Kiernan	14	Right wing	A G Stanger	14
(Dolphin)			(Newcastle)	
B J Mullin	13	Flight centre	S Hastings	13
(Blackrock College)			(Walsworth)	
D G Irwin	12	Left centre	S R P Lineen	12
(Blackrock)			(Boroughmum)	
K O Crossan	11	Left wing	I Davidson	11
(Glenageary)			(Glenageary)	
B A Smith	10	Stand off	C M Chalmers	10
(Oxford University)			(Melrose)	
L P Ahern	9	Scrum half	G Armstrong	9
(Lansdowne)			(Jed-Forest)	
J J Fitzgerald	1	Prop	D M B Sole	1
(Young Munster)			(Edinburgh Acad)	
J D McDonald	2	Hooker	K S Milne	2
(Malone)			(Heriot's FP)	
D C Fitzgerald	3	Prop	A P Burnell	3
(Lansdowne)			(London Scottish)	
P M Matthews	6	Flanker	J Jeffery	6
(Lansdowne)			(London Scottish)	
D G Leithen	4	Lock	C A Gray	4
(Constitution)			(Nottingham)	
W A Anderson	5	Lock	D F Cronin	5
(Dungannon)			(Bath)	
P T J O'Hara	7	Flanker	F Calder	7
(Stewart's Melville FP)			(Stewart's Melville FP)	
N P Mannion	8	No 8	D B White	8
(Corkinham)			(London Scottish)	

REPLACEMENTS: 16 P Murray (St Albans), 17 H Poyce (Constitution), 18 A T Bower (Constitution), 19 C Collins (London Irish), 20 N J Pople (Preston), 21 J Kingston (Dolphin)

## Irish have reasons to fear flying wing

By Alan Lorimer

When Scotland scored their record 37-21 victory over Ireland in Edinburgh last year the game was a personal triumph for Iwan Tukalo, the Selkirk wing, who scored three tries in what was one of the best matches ever seen at Murrayfield.

Now, after recovering from an injury which forced him out of the team which beat Romania in December, Tukalo is back in the Scotland side to face Ireland in Dublin today. Five years on from his international debut this occasion will be another important "first" for the former Royal High School scrum half.

"I have never played for Scotland in the five nations' championship at Lansdowne Road," he explained. "I did appear there as scrum half for Scottish Schools against Irish Schools but then the crowd barely exceeded three."

Missing the McEwan's inter-district championship was another source of frustration for Tukalo, who tore elbow ligaments while playing for Selkirk against Edinburgh Academicals. The initial cure was rest followed by physiotherapy much of which consisted of "squeezing one of those little tennis balls."

Meanwhile Tukalo, rivals were staking their claim to the left-wing berth in the national team. Lindsay Renwick, the London Scot, won his first cap against Romania and was selected for the senior team in the Scottish trial at Murrayfield.

Roger Baird played well enough for South to suggest that he could make a return to the national side and in the B team Stewart Porter, the strong running Malone wing, had an

impressive debut against Ireland. Porter had another good press after Scotland had lost to France B in Oyonnax. But three days later, when the Scotland team to play Ireland was announced, it was Tukalo who was in.

Bob Munro, the chairman of Scotland's selectors, said that pace had been the main consideration. Pace is not a quality in which Tukalo is lacking.

That emphasis on speed contrasted sharply with last year's squad session at Peebles remembered by most players for "the captain's run" — a three-mile cross country slog led by Finlay Calder.

Tukalo feels he is back to full fitness despite having played only four matches since recovering from his injury. These include the trial match in which he played on the Reds side, beaten by eight tries to all by the Blues.

"It was difficult being on the receiving end," he said. "I only hope it didn't discourage some of the younger players."

A few weeks away from his 25th birthday Tukalo is not in the latter category but is still ambitious. "I would like to bring my total of Scotland caps to at least 20," he says.

When he runs out at Lansdowne Road today it will be his 19th appearance for his country and one that he hopes that will be marked with a victory — and perhaps more tries.

## A double first at Ayr

Andy MacDonald, the Cambridge blue and Scotland B forward, makes his first full appearance for London Scottish against Ayr at Millbrae today (Alan Lorimer writes).

The 6ft 8in MacDonald, who appeared for the Scotland XV last weekend against Metropolitan Police, is at lock where he played for the Reds in the

## Guernsey's girls are home again

By Colin McQuillan

ago, chose to start her European season as top seed here, seeking vengeance where it might do the most psychological harm — in a final on her successor's home ground. Looking slightly rusty, but just as lethal as ever, the world No 1, aged 26, progressed 10-9, 9-1, against Sharon Bradey, of Australia.

Le Moignan's first round draw seemed almost calculated to fix attention upon the constant challenge that her playing career has become since she unexpectedly won the World title.

## Wigan in tough tie at Widnes

By Keith Macklin

Two outstanding and crucial matches dominate the first division fixtures this weekend. This afternoon Widnes entertain Wigan in what many people regard as an early championship decider, while tomorrow the revived St Helens meet Leeds in a match between two leading pretenders to the Widnes throne.

Wigan coach, John Monie, is does not regard this afternoon's game as the crucial one in this season's championship race. "There are plenty of games to play, and I think it could go right to the last match of the season. It is not just between Widnes and Wigan. Leeds are just behind, and St Helens and Wakefield Trinity could make big bids for the title."

Wigan are without Gregory, Lydon, Iro, Shefford, Koloto, and Hampson but Widnes are also handicapped by the loss of the Hulme brothers, Myler, and Currier, who is suspended.

The good news for Widnes is that Jonathan Davies seems to have recovered from a nagging hamstring injury and is ready to resume. Wigan, as ever, rely on their strong pool of younger players to fill the gaps.

The outstanding match in the second division is at York, where Ryedale York have a home fixture with the surprise leaders Rochdale Hornets. With Oldham and Hull Kingston Rovers ready to pounce victory is crucial to both sides, and Ryedale York need to recover rapidly from the shock defeat by Fulham in the Challenge Cup.

## Guernsey's girls are home again

By Colin McQuillan

England's two famous squash exports from Guernsey, Marina Le Moignan and Lisa Opie, are home again this weekend, seeded third and second respectively, as Le Moignan, the international reputation in the Guernsey Open, against the strongest women's field so far this season.

Susan Devoy, of New Zealand, from whom Le Moignan took the world title 18 months ago, chose to start her European season as top seed here, seeking vengeance where it might do the most psychological harm — in a final on her successor's home ground. Looking slightly rusty, but just as lethal as ever, the world No 1, aged 26, progressed 10-9, 9-1, against Sharon Bradey, of Australia.

Le Moignan's first round draw seemed almost calculated to fix attention upon the constant challenge that her playing career has become since she unexpectedly won the World title.

## An arboreal argument Langer lost

Bernhard Langer is a polite man, given to keeping his dinner and hi-tops to himself. But on Thursday, in the first round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, even Mary McCormack would surely have forgiven him an expletive or two (Patricia Davies writes).

Langer was bowling along nicely at Spyglass Hill until he came to the first, his 10th, the longest hole.

Left with 100 yards to the pin his wedge was not perfect and the ball hit a tree and did not come down. In 1954, Johnny Vesimuller proved a similar wedge was not down by hitting his ball out of a tree, then dangling from a branch and emitting his famous yell. Langer perched a similar wonder, if less theatrically, at Fullerton a few years ago.

But this time there was no chance of arboreal athleticism. Instead he identified his ball through field glasses and prepared to drop another. A rules official arrived and demanded proof of identification. More field glasses had to be commandeered, the official agreed it was a Titleist 1, and Langer played on.

He took three putts for an eight on the hole and finished in 73.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES: RUSSELL SIMMONS, 66; P. SIMMONS, 67; M. C. MURPHY, 68; S. LLOYD, J. WOODWARD, J. THORP, B. GILLES, R. MURKIN, T. RAY, R. ROY, S. EMMETT, B. CLAR, M. CALDWELL, T. W. B. WILSON, J. S. MANN, J. JACOBSON, D. LANGE, B. BROWN, B. BRANT, J. WAGAN, D. EDWARDS, M. SCHUCHT, J. CONN, F. FLETCHER, R. MURPHY, J. CLARK, (GB), B. Langer (WGC), T. S. LLOYD (GB).

## MOTOR RACING

### Senna fine paid by McLaren

Paris (Agencies) — McLaren will be allowed to race in next season's Formula One championship after paying a \$100,000 fine imposed upon Ayrton Senna for dangerous driving at the Japanese Grand Prix last year, but the former world champion must apologise publicly for claiming last year's title was fixed before he is allowed to resume driving.

The sport's governing body, FISA, has set the Brazilian a deadline of February 15 for the apology before allowing him to regain his license for the coming season. The body has accepted the entries of two McLaren cars, one for Gerhard Berger and another for an unspecified driver, presumably Senna if the dispute is settled.

Peter Burns, the team spokesman, refused to comment on the prospects of Senna settling his differences with FISA and its president, Jean-Marie Balestre.

## Staying on

Rome (Reuters) — Rudi Voller, the West German forward, has signed a new contract to stay with Roma until 1992. Voller, aged 29, joined Roma in 1987 from Werder Bremen. He scored for West Germany in their 3-2 defeat by Argentina in the 1986 World Cup final and is expected to figure in the squad again for this year's finals in Italy.

## German plans

Bonn (Reuters) — West Germany, runners-up in the last two World Cup finals, will warm up for this year's finals in Italy with matches against France, Uruguay, Czechoslovakia and Denmark. They will play France in Montpellier on February 28, Uruguay in Stuttgart on April 25, Czechoslovakia in Düsseldorf on May 26 and Denmark in Gelsenkirchen on May 30.

## Samba no strain to Soviets

From John Hennessy, Leningrad

Paul and Isabelle Duchesnay, taking on the character of Torvill and Dean, moved into third place after the original set pattern samba in the European ice dance championship in the Lenin Sports Complex yesterday.

The French brother and sister duo, who won the 1988 world championship, are the reigning British Olympic champions in the German Alps, and have the benefit of Dean's choreographic expertise and Torvill's practical application.

Otherwise, as is the depressing way of ice dance, little changed. The world champions, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, won yesterday's element, as they had done the compulsory dances, and their Soviet compatriots, Maia

Usova and Alexander Zhulin, finished second as they had done in the compulsories.

The three leaders were a class apart in the originality of their presentations. Perhaps Klimova and Ponomarenko came nearest to a conventional samba, skating beautifully, though with one error which must have escaped the notice of the European judges. She gave them a 6.0, in spite of a clear failure of one hold.

The French were the most adventurous of all, with all couples conspicuously shunned the clichés of wiggled shoulders, wagged hips and rolled hands. The women's final on Wednesday night had been a comedy of horrors. The last group supposedly the cream of the crop, went from one disaster

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Title defence

Derek Williams, of South London, makes the first defence of his European heavyweight boxing title against Jean Chaneat at St Dizier in eastern France today.

Boon (Reuters) — West Germany plans to expand its experimental scheme for random dope tests on athletes in training to cover all Olympic sports, officials said yesterday.

### Half century

Tokyo (AFP) — Steffi Graf celebrated her fifteenth consecutive victory by beating Larisa Savchenko, of the Soviet Union, 6-0, 6-3 in the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament here yesterday.

### Porsche denial

Stuttgart (Reuters) — Porsche, the West German sports car maker, yesterday denied reports it had signed a deal to supply the Belgian-owned Onyx Formula One team with engines next year.

### Tour victory

Perth (AFP) — Sri Lanka beat Western Australia by four wickets in a limited-over cricket match here yesterday.

### US recall for Sander

Anne Sander, the US women's senior golf champion, has been recalled to the American team for the Curtis Cup match against Britain and Ireland at Somerset Hills, New Jersey, in July.

She will be joined by Carol Thompson, another experienced player, and by a series of debutants, all but one of them under 24. The ones to watch are Weiss, who is 36, and the youngsters are Karen Noble, Katie Peterson, Margaret Platt, Brandie Burton and Vicki Goetze, the US amateur champion and the youngest of all at 17. The team captain is Leslie Shannon, a member of the losing sides at Prairie Dunes and at Royal St George's two years ago.

### Pridepost

Paul Priddy, released by Worcestershire at the end of last season, has been forced to turn down two offers to play Minor Counties cricket because of a hamstring injury. Priddy will now take up an appointment as cricket and football coach at Shrewsbury school.



Durie lost to White

### Auckland defeat

Jo Durie, of Britain, failed to reach the semi-finals of the Nutr-Medics International tennis tournament in Auckland when she was beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Robin White, of the United States, yesterday.

### Ski race off

Veysonnaz, Switzerland (Reuters) — Heavy snow forced the postponement of a women's World Cup Alpine skiing downhill race yesterday. The race had earlier delayed the start by an hour because of snowfalls and poor visibility, hoping conditions would improve.







## CRICKET: LARWOOD UNREPENTANT ABOUT ENGLAND'S USE OF BODYLINE TACTICS DURING THE INFAMOUS 1932-33 SERIES IN AUSTRALIA

## Wheatley losing four-day battle

By Martin Scarby

The Test and County Cricket Board is close to admitting defeat in its struggle to bring in a four-day county championship, which Lord's officials feel vital to improve an England team which has won only one of its last 25 Test matches.

Once Wheatley, the chairman of the TCCB cricket committee, was clearly out of the debate when public at a meeting of members of the Derbyshire Cricket Society and the Chesterfield Cricket Club, a show of hands showed that no more than seven per cent of those present supported the plan.

"The board has done wonders over the last 20 years," he told the meeting. "In 1969 the counties had to share just £230,000. But this year the dividend has come from £6.5 million in the city. The board has done plenty for you, now it is time you did something for England."

He added: "Three-day cricket is not a game which brings people through the gates. It took a marketing committee to give you the prospectus times you are enjoying now." Wheatley said a 16-match championship programme would give an extra day of premier level to give you the prospectus times you are enjoying now.

Edwards received roaring support for his arguments against the four-day game. He insisted that money must be spent at under-19 level to improve the technical qualities of England players.

"At Essex we have put £100,000 into youth cricket and it has paid a dividend with players like Stephen and Hussain coming through as well as Pringle and Foster who have been with us since the age of 12. So much money is being wasted and if counties' revenue fell we would have to look at the youth programme and that has got to be the case overall."

It seems clear that the TCCB has failed to anticipate market opposition and failed to move early enough to consider it. More lobbying by Wheatley and his colleagues would have improved the board's chances of getting the proposals through.

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Sydney He lives with his wife, Lois, his memories, and his trophies. That it is over a year since his sight became too poor for him to venture beyond the front gate of his Sydney home seems not to worry him in the least. He knows his way round the little house and garden, both of them spick and span, and, through the telephone directory, pilgrims track him down.

Harold Larwood is a very good, affably philosophical 85. "You must expect to lose something when you get to my age, and you're lucky if it's only your eye-sight." He is nowhere near blind, but he likes you at short leg, because he sees you better than when you are straight in front of him.

Ever since emigrating to Australia in April 1950 at the instigation and under the supervision of Jack Fingleton, Larwood has kept a low profile. His accent is still pure Kirkby-in-Ashfield, though he has 12 Australian grandchildren and four Australian great-grandchildren, "all scattered abroad".

Of his five daughters — there were no sons — one lives on the Queensland border, another two hours north of Sydney's Harbour Bridge, and another keeps a shop in Canberra.

He covered the MCC tour of 1950-51, accompanied by a ghost writer who called his invariably charitable observations to the *Sunday Express* in London, and the *Melbourne Herald*. Today, the talk turns at once to cricket, to a game which he considers a lot more dangerous than the "leg theory" of 1932-33, which gave him his reputation, albeit a misleading one, for being such a holy terror.

The term "bodyline" is frowned upon in the Larwood household. It was "leg theory", not dissimilar, Larwood will tell you, in the way Fred Root practised it. Root was, in fact, a medium-paced in-swinging, who, like Larwood, bowled to a battery of short legs. But Root's was there for the married glances, Larwood's for the catch given by batsmen trying to defend their bodies.

Larwood, though, is unrepentant. "When I hear the commentators today saying: 'Oh, what a beautiful bouncer, it only just missed his head', I wonder what the game has come to. I might sometimes have bowled at a batsman's ribs, but never at his head."

"The one that hit my old pal Bertie [Oldfield] at Adelaide came off his bat. Woodfull got hit over the heart. The ball didn't get to fly around the batsman's head, or over the top. Woodfull was fast-footed and tense: I could have hit him at any time I wanted, but I didn't, and I was still abused. Of the 33 wickets I took in 1932-33, 15 were bowled."

Yet all these years later, the battle plan is remembered. "I'd bowl two or three overs at the off stump. Then the shine was gone, and Bob's your uncle, the field would cross to the leg side."

Larwood still has his contract for the 1932-33 MCC tour. It was for £400, of which £15 could be claimed straightaway, and £100 was withheld, pending the manager's end-of-tour report. "It cost £100 to buy evening clothes for the ship, a cabin trunk, shirts, and all that. But we didn't mind. It was an honour going. A cricketer's benefit in them days was to save him from a pauper's grave... I got £2,000 for mine."

That was a nice lot of money in the 1930s, and there is no pinching and scraping today, any more than there is affluence. The walls are hung, and the mantelpiece lined, and the cabinets packed, with cricketing treasures, the silver lovingly polished.

In pride of place is Jardine's parting present: "To Harold for the Ashes — From a grateful skipper, 1932-33." Larwood was fond of "the skipper", but it was his Nottinghamshire cap-

tain, Arthur Carr, who, he thinks, "made" him.

There are six mounted cricket balls, including the one with which Larwood took five for 28 in the second innings of the first Test at Sydney in 1932-33, making 10 wickets in the match, and another given to him after he had taken the first seven wickets for MCC against Victoria at Melbourne in 1928-29, when Mr Chapman said: "Do you want the last three, Harold?" and Larwood replied: "No, skipper, let someone else have them."

There is a picture of Larwood meeting a top-hatted King George V at Trent Bridge in 1928. "I met him twice that year, and each time he asked me the same question: 'How old are you?'"

Yes, it has been a good life ever since a cable came one day in 1925, when Larwood was playing for Mansfield Colliery, asking him to be prepared to travel with the Nottinghamshire side. He had never before been outside the county. "I don't know how I bowled like I did, and when I told that to Sam Staples, he said: 'In that case, don't try and find out.'"

Larwood recalls being hit only three times for six; by Les Ames off the last ball before lunch at Canterbury, by



As an Englishman abroad: Larwood, once the scourge of Australian batsmen, at his home in Sydney recently

Mr Allen, the skipper [D.R. Jardine], Wally [Hammond], and Mr Warty at short-leg. The Don [Bradman] was such a murderous player. He tried everything against leg theory... I'd show you some pictures." And out comes an album with photographs of Bradman, making room to cut or moving outside the off stump to be in a position to bowl.

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Yes, it has been a good life ever since a cable came one day in 1925, when Larwood was playing for Mansfield Colliery, asking him to be prepared to travel with the Nottinghamshire side. He had never before been outside the county. "I don't know how I bowled like I did, and when I told that to Sam Staples, he said: 'In that case, don't try and find out.'"

Larwood recalls being hit only three times for six; by Les Ames off the last ball before lunch at Canterbury, by

Mr Allen, the skipper [D.R. Jardine], Wally [Hammond], and Mr Warty at short-leg. The Don [Bradman] was such a murderous player. He tried everything against leg theory... I'd show you some pictures." And out comes an album with photographs of Bradman, making room to cut or moving outside the off stump to be in a position to bowl.

Larwood still has his contract for the 1932-33 MCC tour. It was for £400, of which £15 could be claimed straightaway, and £100 was withheld, pending the manager's end-of-tour report. "It cost £100 to buy evening clothes for the ship, a cabin trunk, shirts, and all that. But we didn't mind. It was an honour going. A cricketer's benefit in them days was to save him from a pauper's grave... I got £2,000 for mine."

That was a nice lot of money in the 1930s, and there is no pinching and scraping today, any more than there is affluence. The walls are hung, and the mantelpiece lined, and the cabinets packed, with cricketing treasures, the silver lovingly polished.

In pride of place is Jardine's parting present: "To Harold for the Ashes — From a grateful skipper, 1932-33." Larwood was fond of "the skipper", but it was his Nottinghamshire cap-

tain, Arthur Carr, who, he thinks, "made" him.

## Wright steers his team towards a strong position

From Qamar Ahmed, Christchurch

An unbeaten 127 by their captain, John Wright, established New Zealand to make 255 for three by the time play ended on the first day of the first Test match against India at Lancaster Park yesterday.

Sitting for the first time in a Test, with a square-on stance and with his bat on the ground instead of in the air like a baseball player, Wright played a composed and collected innings, having won the toss and decided to bat. But he soon settled and all through the day batted with authority, striking 13 fours, to reach his eighth Test century off 297 deliveries.

After losing his opening partner, Trevor Franklin, at 26, to a fine catch by Prabhakar, at first slip, off Kapil Dev, Wright shared a valuable 85 with Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe and Mark Greatbatch.

With Jones he put on 105 for the second wicket, with Crowe 51 for the third wicket and with Greatbatch and Crowe a partnership of 73 for the fourth wicket.

As expected, Dipak Patel was left out of the 12 named by New Zealand. India included the medium pacer, Anil Wasson.

NEW ZEALAND First Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Second Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Third Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fourth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fifth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Sixth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Seventh Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Eighth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Ninth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Tenth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Eleventh Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twelfth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirteenth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fourteenth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fifteenth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Sixteenth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Seventeenth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Eighteenth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Nineteenth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twentieth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-first Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-second Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-third Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-fourth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-fifth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-sixth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-seventh Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-eighth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-ninth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirtieth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-first Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-second Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-third Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-fourth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-fifth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-sixth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-seventh Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-eighth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Thirty-ninth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fortieth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-first Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-second Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-third Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-fourth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-fifth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-sixth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-seventh Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-eighth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Forty-ninth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fiftieth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fifty-first Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fifty-second Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fifty-third Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fifty-fourth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).

NEW ZEALAND Fifty-fifth Innings: T.J. Franklin 127, P. Prabhakar 82, J. Wright 127, A.H. Jones 85, M. Crowe 51, A. Wasson 24, M. Greatbatch 21. Extras (b, lb, nb, f) 25. Total 255 (3 overs).







Clement Freud journeys to Southwell and discovers why the public is not flocking to watch racing on an artificial surface

# All-weather but not much enjoyment

In a foreword to the Jockey Club's guide to all-weather racing, published five months ago, Andrew Parker Bowles wrote: "The financial implications for the racing industry are clear. All-weather track racing is being introduced primarily to offset the financial losses caused to the levy by the abandonment of race meetings during the winter period."

In earlier paragraphs of the introduction he had spoken enthusiastically of "the advantages of Flat racing throughout the year and National Hunt racing at a time when fixtures are usually lost," and referred ingeniously to the provision of "opportunity for the racing public... to enjoy this new extension of our sport." He got it wrong. They don't.

The racing public, almost to a man, currently stays at home rather than spend an afternoon at Lingfield or Southwell. What the Jockey Club called "an exciting new concept" is similar to the Indian rope trick: you never meet anyone who has actually seen it, though you occasionally encounter those who know someone who has.

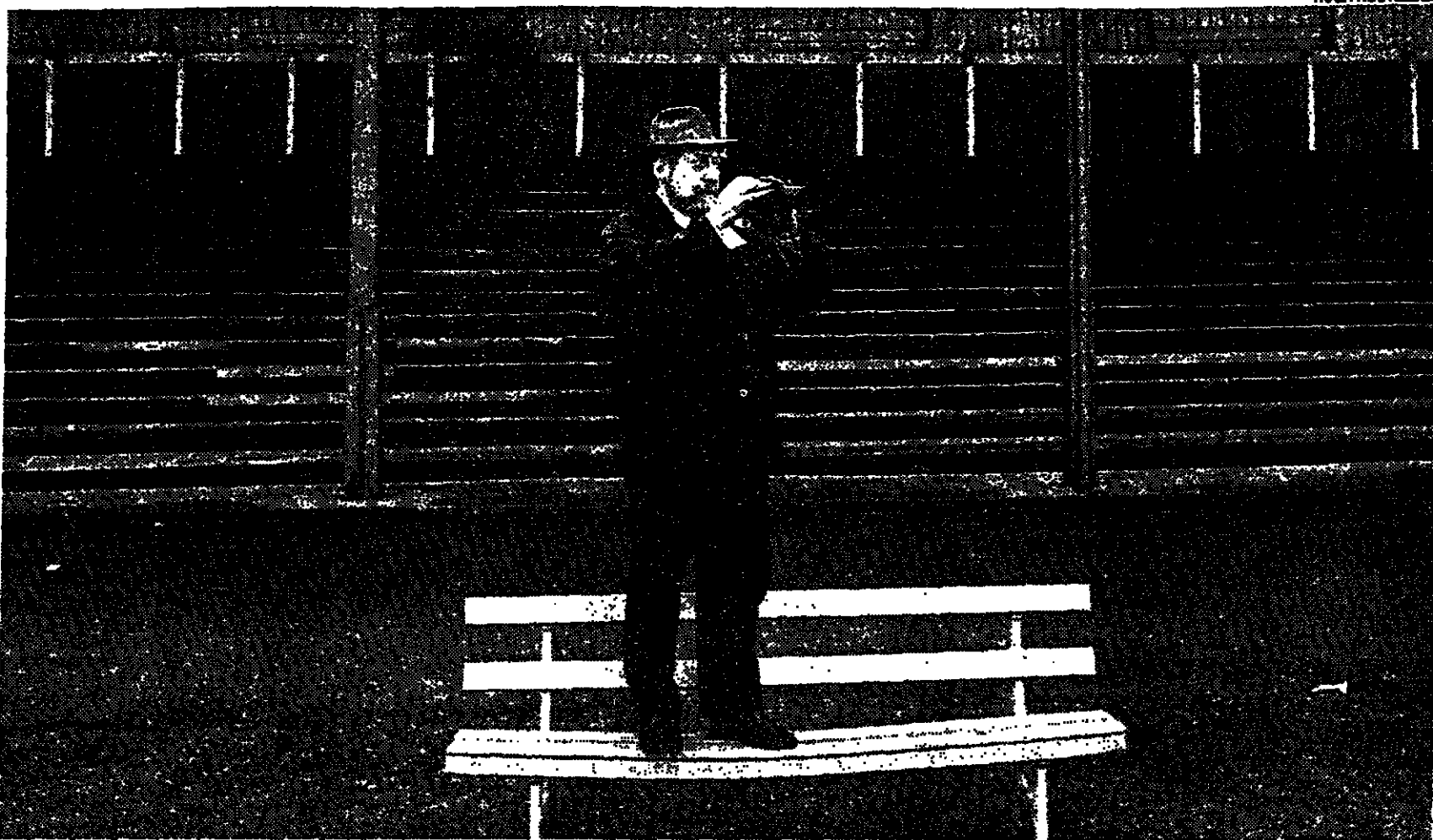
Quite simply all-weather racing is to the sport of kings what the pools panel became to football: a means whereby the gaming industry could provide a medium for gambling even when the weather gods have decided otherwise. (Since its introduction three months ago the weather has been mostly benign — though among the handful of casualties to the calendar have been one at each of the all-weather tracks Southwell because of fog, Lingfield as a result of the hurricane.)

I went to Southwell — which many pundits pronounce Suthell — though not the locals of adjacent Newark and Nottingham. It has always been recognized as a pretty average sort of track in an average part of the country where average horses jump average obstacles, and the reason for its being selected as one of the venues for all-weather was the willingness of the owners to improve the course — it would not have been easy to have made it any worse.

A difficult place to find, Southwell is. The *Racing Post* suggests you get there from St Pancras via Nottingham, then by a local railway line to Rolleston station — trains every one to two hours, which is optimistic. The *Sporting Life* locates the track seven miles west of Newark, but is unhelpful when it comes to means of getting there by public transport. King's Cross to Newark is best; then a £5 taxi. "Has there been a marked upturn in trade since the all-weather stuff began," I asked the driver of my cab. "No," he said.

The country is flat and green and wet; you cross the River Trent, glance back at the ruins of Newark Castle, pass the villages of Averbham and Staythorpe and just as you are about to turn to the driver and say: "It cannot be anywhere near here," there it is.

The course is oval with a chute at the end of one straight. The stand has seen much better days; another is in the



Loneliness of the long-distance punter: having tracked Southwell down, Clement Freud scans the horizon for fellow racegoers and a piece of the all-weather action

course of construction. Some ramshackle buildings house the catering facilities; a cosy, bespoke Tote Credit building is where the cognoscenti gather to keep from the elements and watch racing from up-market locations like Plumpton.

An all-weather track has been introduced (stands are built, tracks introduced) in the centre of the oval. It looks as if it is made of brown sugar but is technically Fibresand — "a carefully blended mixture of silica sand and synthetic rot-proof fibres."

I pick my way through the mud flats and examine the 1½-mile circuit affording a three-furlong run-in. The going is always officially "standard", unofficially pretty desperate — like the sands of Southport where Red Rum was so well prepared for his Grand Nationals. I suppose "yielding" is a fair description, not "bottomless"; a poor place to build a decent-sized sand-castle for there is a layer of geotextile membrane just beneath.

The overall atmosphere is reminiscent of Wisbech greyhound stadium on a bad day and yet there is a sort of buzz that attaches to even the most pedestrian arena when there is money to be won and

brave men stand up beside satchels filled with bank notes.

By way of distraction, there is a state-of-the-art barbecue and baked potato stand: a tea room in which you get real tea at 25p a cup and cakes that you could take or leave at 40p a slab. The dining room does its best with a three-course £7 meal and there is a bar.

You can understand racetracks that hold one meeting every five weeks having difficulties with catering. At Southwell, where there is racing two days in every four, there is little excuse for not having high quality products and none at all for failing to come up with some sort of winners' package.

Regardless of the unimportance of the races, each afternoon throws up six successful owners, six trainers, and half a dozen lots of "connections," all looking for somewhere to entertain their friends and celebrate a famous victory.

There is an ante-room to the gentlemen's lavatory in the members' enclosure — a stand that is now so far removed from the action as to be useless for observation, which would lend itself to such occasions. It is furnished with a waiting room table and the kind of sofa on which passengers used to sleep in

ancient railway comedies starring Will Hay. A jobbing builder could turn it into a Winners' Bar in 48 hours.

Apart from overall financial reasons, there are other positive aspects to all-weather racing: it benefits the small, non-Sheikh owners whose chances of winning prizes on real racecourses are getting ever more remote; and there are small trainers and little-known jockeys for whom meetings at this lower level are a lifeline to continued existence.

Whether moderate horses, unable to win against "proper competition" deserve the opportunity to race in public is another question — as is the wisdom of providing hurdles so low and insubstantial that horses come to no harm galloping through them, thus losing respect for obstacles.

But good as it looks on SIS in the betting shops, there is little in-built magic about the all-weather branch of the business. It is about plodding and plodding more quickly, when horse racing at its best is about finding another gear. On Fibresand, whoever comes round the final bend in the first few places is going to win for horses do not so much race past each other as overtake the ones that are slowing down.

## Attendances and Tote turnovers

The average daily attendances since all-weather racing began on October 30 are 252 at Southwell (excluding yesterday) and 445 at Lingfield. These figures are turnstile paying customers only and do not include owners, members, private box holders etc.

The daily average Tote turnovers up to and including January 27 are £7,929 at Southwell and £19,946 at Lingfield. These figures represent the aggregate of all pools (win, place, dual forecast and placepot) and incorporate business from credit clients and off-course bookmakers passed on to the track by the Tote.

or that horse can bring a 2-1 shot down to 5-4 at a single wipe of the board. Yet bookmakers are on to less than a good thing at Southwell for form works out remarkably well, surprises tending to come from horses who have not previously raced on brown sugar.

Also, jockeys speak well of it — but then they would. What is missing, apart from a surface from which a horse will bounce, is the joyous spectacle of horses at full stretch and the opportunity of celebrating the exultation that comes with winning anything.

A discreet notice in the dining room announces good champagne at £20 a bottle, which is a snip, but celebrations would have to be held against the overall dreariness of the place. When I am asked to plan a racecourse, I shall erect a proper champagne bar before I would think of introducing a track or putting up a winning post.

As with Spanish holiday packages in the Sixties, all-weather racing has been introduced before it was ready. There will come a day, in a year or two, when one will be able to sit and watch in comfort, when the appalling packet soup served in the dining room will be a distant memory (though there will not be nicer waitresses to apologize for it); when the bookmakers will be within the same time zone as the winning post.

Until that comes about and the name Southwell trips off the nation's tongues as easily as Epsom, it is something of a liberty to charge punters for what is currently on offer: the presentation of contests which the 10,000 betting shops of Great Britain can put on their screens in order to increase the £4 billion annual turnover on horseracing — a turnover from which the Government takes in excess of eight per cent in tax, bookmakers make upwards of 20 per cent gross profit and on which there is a levy of less than one per cent that goes back into the sport.

Contrary to the predictions of Colonel Parker Bowles, the racing public is not going to enjoy this until they get better value for their money.

FOCUSING ON THE LEADING LIVERY YARD AS NEW POINT-TO-POINT SEASON COMES UNDER ORDERS

## Teamwork key to Saunders success

By Alix Ramsay

As the new point-to-point season gets underway today, all eyes will be on Caroline Saunders and her livery yard in Northamptonshire. To see whether she can repeat her impressive achievements of last year with 28 victories and five in hunter chases.

Her star horse of last season, *Cheltenham*, is racing 2 miles. National Hunt rules now. And so Saunders is looking elsewhere for success. "Golden Wings, Okyaso and Lollys Patch all won four races last year, and I have high hopes for them," she said.

"I have some Irish horses new to the yard — Milesian, Fedayhill and Delphin — so I will have to see how they go. However, she will still be keeping a watchful eye on *Ballinacree*, once her late grandmother's horse, as the successful trainer is now the proud owner."

It's not hard to see how Caroline Saunders became involved with racing. Her father, Dick Saunders, a full-time farmer, won the 1982 Grand National on the hunter chaser *Crisper* and is closely involved in point-to-pointing.

## Old Nick for flying start at Old Raby

By Brian Beel, Point-to-point Correspondent

The first of the 30 qualifiers for the Audi Prix de Chasse at Cheltenham on May 2 takes place today at the Old Raby Hunt Club point-to-point.

From a total of 156 entries for the six races, only a disappointing dozen are down to go in the Audi, of which Old Nick may be the pick.

Although jumping lapses caused his downfall in two of his five races last term, he impressed when winning competitive open races, one of which was in heavy going.

The main opposition today may come from Ingley Imp, who won four of his nine races last year, and Dercany, who is still a maiden.

Ready Steady returns to point-to-pointing after a disappointing spell under Rules but will find Roscoe Boy a hard nut to crack if they oppose in the ladies' open.

The North Cornwall start their meeting, surprisingly, with the two open races. Doro in the Choice could go in the men's event here and give John Dufosse a fair chance of opening his account.

General Billy had three consecutive wins in mid-season last year and on that form could go well at the West Country meeting, but it must be remembered that he had previously pulled up, first time out, on heavy going.

"I always thought I'd do something with horses, it's in the family," she explained. "When I was younger I was interested in breeding. I reached 22 I realised I couldn't combine that with point-to-pointing."

Her career as a rider was ended by injury after 40 wins. That was three years ago. Since then, she has concentrated on training and has built up her stable and awesome reputation with, as she puts it: "No special secret."

"I have a good team," she said. "I have good horses, good jockeys, good owners and a good staff. I stay with point-to-pointing because it is still connected to hunting. We hunt the horses until Christmas to qualify them and we all enjoy it. There is no money in point-to-pointing, but I have some very nice owners who enjoy riding themselves."

All of which sounds a little too good to be true. Months of hard slog, seven days a week and for no great prize-money at the end. Surely not?

"In point-to-pointing there are not the big prizes as in being a public owner. It's a good

stepping stone to National Hunt, but that is not for me in the immediate future. I am enjoying this too much at the moment. "Point-to-pointing is very much a friendly day out. It's a small community but very friendly and very sporting. The thrill comes from training winners and from training bad horses to win. Some are just plain thick or ignorant. It doesn't matter how much you school them and try to teach them to jump, they still fall over. But it is an achievement to get them to win. And there's always the challenge of a new horse and a new jockey."

She is not in favour of wrapping her best horses in cotton wool. "It is tempting not to hunt a good horse, but we enjoy hunting and the horses enjoy it. It does them good, too. They learn to jump on bad ground."

Having looked after her charges all through the season and trained them to their ultimate limits, you would have thought that race-day would be the time when the trainer could relax. After all, the race is up to the horse and rider. Not so. "I'm a nervous wreck," she admitted. "I can only relax when the last runner is safely tucked up in his box."

The support of her family has made her life a little easier. "I have had a lot of advice from my parents," she said. "They have backed me up and given me a lot of assistance and we argue about the business. But they have let me run things and find my own feet."

"I think I could be a trainer now without regret but I could not have started out without them. Having the farm and the facilities have helped a great deal financially at the beginning."

Certainly it is a family business. With 22 horses under her wing this season and 24 last season, Saunders sometimes finds herself thinly spread over busy weekends. "If I'm going to two meetings, my father will go to one of them and do my job there while I go to the other. And if we go to three, my mother will take the third. I'm sure my father enjoys the sport and the fact that I've done well."

Things don't always go well however. The worst thing to happen to any trainer is to lose a horse. "Every time it happens — and we lost three last season — it is hard to cope with. Working with them you become so attached. Whether you own them or not, I think of all the horses as mine while they are here."

However, this dedicated trainer is looking forward in the new season with the aim of repeating last year's successes. "I've had one or two complaints recently, but I think we're clear of it now," she said. "It's always a worry — viruses come and go in the yard like a yoyo. We had it in December but it seems to have cleared up. I think all the horses are well and I am as hopeful as last year."



Top point-to-point trainer Caroline Saunders gives grey hunter Banker an affectionate pat at her Holdenby stables

## Improving Nomadic Way to take honours in Wessel

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Nomadic Way and Island Set provide a strong English presence in tomorrow's Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown.

Nomadic Way, trained by Barry Hills for Robert Sangster, landed a gamble on the Flat two seasons ago in the Tote Cesarewitch.

Over hurdles this season, he has twice been in the frame and, while he finished 10 lengths behind Cruising Altitude when they met at Newbury in November, he cut the deficit to a head on their second encounter, on virtually identical terms, in the Charles Heidsieck Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham in December.

On form, Island Set has an even better chance for he had Cruising Altitude 15 lengths behind in the same event, while he finished runner-up to Sordario in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham in March.

Believe, though, that Cruising Altitude had gone over the top by that stage of the season and, as Island Set has not had a previous jumping run this winter, Nomadic Way could have the advantage.

The letter carrying Paddy Mullins's entry for Grabel was delayed in the post and the mare was therefore omitted from the entries. Grabel's form will, however, be on trial as the Irish team is headed by Elementary, who was trying to give her the 5th sex allowance when beaten a head in the Bookmakers' Hurdle over this course and distance at Christmas.

Since then, Elementary has been unplaced under top weight in the Ladbrokes but he ran a better race there than his finishing position of nineteenth would suggest. Held up in the rear, he made headway from halfway but was found out by the very strong gallop.

Tomorrow's race is likely to be run at a more sedate gallop and this will suit Elementary, whose best distance on the Flat was nine furlongs. Naevog looks best of the remainder but the finish should be fought out between the English pair and Elementary, with Nomadic Way the selection.

Jim Dreaper expressed his pessimism yesterday concerning the race fitness of Carville's Hill, who has to carry 12st 2lb,

including a 2lb penalty, in the Harold Clarke Leopardstown Chase.

A much bigger penalty was incurred by the English runner, Mweenish, from John Webber's 23lb after winning the Thyestes Handicap Chase by a dozen lengths when carrying a stone more than his long handicap weight.

Mweenish is clearly much better than the Irish handicapper originally thought. Carville's Hill has won his only two handicaps over fences by margins of a distance and 15 lengths. Even though short of his best, Carville's Hill may still have the class to beat Mweenish.

## Ireland tomorrow

3.10 WESSEL CABLE CHAMPION HURDLE (20.85C, 2m) (5 runners). 820 Elementary (trained by J. Mullins) 7-11 (7) (Mullins); 104 Fourth of July (7) (Mullins); 112 Island Set (7) (Mullins); 120 Nomadic Way (7) (Mullins); 121 Carville's Hill (7) (Mullins); 122 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 123 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 124 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 125 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 126 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 127 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 128 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 129 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 130 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 131 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 132 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 133 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 134 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 135 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 136 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 137 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 138 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 139 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 140 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 141 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 142 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 143 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 144 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 145 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 146 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 147 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 148 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 149 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 150 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 151 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 152 Mweenish (7) (Mullins); 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## SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

# This immemorial sporting life

The genesis of sport is more than the book of numbers or the chronicles of the mighty. In this historical perspective, Richard Holt gives the ordinary participant his due

GRAHAM BAKER

**A**ll peoples have their play, but none of the great modern nations has built it up into a rule of life and a national code. That was the verdict of a German visitor to Britain in the 1920s. Sport was responsible for that "peculiarly cheerful and naive philosophy, so elusive and incomprehensible to the foreign observer" that set the British apart.

A young French nobleman, the Baron de Coubertin, who was to found the modern Olympic Games, had come to a similar conclusion almost 40 years earlier, in 1886. "The role played by sport," he observed, "is what appears most worthy of notice in English education." Whether such claims were true is probably less important than the fact that they were widely believed to be so.

To foreigners, cricket in particular was a uniquely English and imperial thing quite beyond ordinary understanding. No doubt the robustly ethnocentric British sportsman would have been inclined to agree: let the French have their cycle races, the Germans their gymnastics and leave the Americans to get on with their puerile game of baseball — an offensively commercialized form of an English girls' game.

Such was the British view of other sports on the rare occasion they gave any thought to what passed for sport beyond the confines of the British Isles and the British Empire. Anglo-Saxon sports were an integral part of the image that the British presented to the world and which outsiders came to associate with Britain.

Public school sport rightly has an important role in any study of British sport since 1800 but is only one part of the story. More compelling to the Saturday afternoon matches of the Football League, the most popular and highly organized programme of spectator sport in existence.

Beyond the world of clanking turnstiles and vast stadiums with thousands of men in caps and muffers were the generations of young boys who kicked their rag-and-string footballs around the back lanes and used the lamppost at the street corner as a wicket; then there were the humble club players, who would never play well but still with gusto and delight, enjoying a few pints and a chat with "the lads."

The ordinary participant has been overlooked in the history of sport, which often has been little more than the book of Numbers or the book of Numbers. Praising a few famous men and compiling records is not enough.

"Modern" sport, according to received wisdom, was invented in the mid-Victorian years — the 1850s to 1880s — and everything that preceded this revolution was "traditional."

A remarkable range of popular games and contests was played and enjoyed in Britain before the advent of modern sports. Each town or village had its ball games, running races and varieties of fighting and animal sports. An observer of early eighteenth-century London noted that the "more common sort divert themselves at football, wrestling, cudgels, ninepins, shovel-board, cricket, sunball, ringing of bells, quoits, pitching the bar, bull and bear baiting, throwing at cocks."

For the most part, there were no national games in the modern sense, although the Cotswold Games, revived by Robert Dover in 1604, attracted huge crowds to watch contests of leaping, shink-kicking, wrestling as well as coarsing and jousting. These games survived into the mid-nineteenth century.

Yet most people still played only among themselves or with a neighbouring parish and had no need of written codes of practice. The young men grew up playing the game in the way their elders had done and in turn passed on these traditions to their children.

Deep attachment to the land and a fierce local patriotism were part and parcel of popular recreations. Inter-parish fights were commonplace throughout early modern Europe and were usually carefully regulated by custom. Football was often a good way of permitting the youth their violent rituals; the ancient match between the parishes of Saint Peter's and All Saints in Derby at Shrovetide is a case in point. Solidarity may have existed within villages, but peace rarely prevailed between them.

Throwing at cocks was a favourite sport on Shrove Tuesday. The bird was tethered by a string a few feet long and passers-by paid to throw stones or sticks at what was a living coconut shy. The bird would dodge as best it could until its legs were broken and it was finally killed and carried off by the thrower that finished it off.

Cock fighting was even more popular. Schoolboys traditionally brought their cocks to school on Shrove Tuesday to match them. All large towns had cockpits and here contests were more regular. Pepys went to one in London in 1663 and found "the poorest prentices, bakers, brewers, butchers, draymen and whatnot... all fellows one with another swearing, cursing and betting." In eighteenth-century Newcastle, in spite of the high admission charges, cockpits were always crowded by "tegar and interested pit men"

and there were at least seven cockpits in the city in 1800.

Bull baiting, too, was common. There was a general belief that a bull needed to be baited to improve the meat before slaughter and certain by-laws actually required this to be done. The bulldog, thick-set with short legs and powerful jaws, would try to crawl under the bull "to seize him by the muzzle, the dewlap or the pendant glands."

The bull would try to toss the dog with its horns while the owner ran around trying to break its fall with a pole or even catch the dog on his own back. If the dog succeeded in getting a hold it clung on to the rearing and kicking bull and "to all appearance put him to great pain. In the end, either the dog tears out the piece he has laid hold on, and falls, or else remains fixed to him with an obstinacy that would never end if they did not pull him off."

Enthusiasm for the characteristics of the bulldog was such that it became a national symbol. Bulls were not only baited, they were also let loose in the streets of the town and goaded with sticks in a frantic melee of chasing and dodging. By the standards of our day, the level of violence tolerated was remarkable, whether we look at contests between beasts or between men.

Fighting was probably the most popular individual sport. "Amongst the pit lads, boxing was considered a mainly exercise and a favourite amusement and I believe I counted no less than 17 battles which I reluctantly had to fight before I was able to attain a position of respect," recalled William Fairbairn of North Shields in 1803. And at Pudsey in Yorkshire in the 1820s men would fight "until almost exhausted and sometimes women might be seen helping to form rings and shouting encouraging words to the combatants."

Women were also willing to fight. William Hickey observed two women "engaged in a scratching and boxing match, their faces entirely covered with blood, bosoms bare and the clothes nearly torn from their bodies" near Drury Lane in the eighteenth century.

However, it is misleading to think of fighting merely as primitive or staid. The realm of physical combat witnessed some

of the first moves towards organized and commercialized sport. There was a distinct "commercialization" of leisure in the eighteenth century. Horse racing and cricket were the main beneficiaries of a changing cultural climate. But "pugilism" was one of the first to have a written code of rules and a kind of national championship informally run by a coterie of sporting aristocrats.

Rules were laid down in 1743 by Jack Broughton after an opponent of his had died as a result of a fight. With revisions, the Broughton rules regulated prize-fighting until the last great prize-fight held in England in 1860 between Sayers and Heenan. The regulations against "hitting a man when he is down", the right to half a minute's rest after going down and the ban on "hitting below the belt" were only loosely enforced — a deal of what we would now call wrestling went on — and designed less to protect the combatants and preserve "civilized standards" than to prevent corruption.

**H**uge sums were wagered. In 1750 the Duke of Cumberland backed Broughton for £10,000. After getting several blows to the eye, he called out pitifully to his angry backer: "I can't see my man, your Highness, I am blind but not beat. Only place me before him and he shall not gain the day yet."

Prize-fighting was patronized by the highest in the land. In 1786 it was said there were wagers of up to £40,000, with the Duke of York and the Prince of Wales among the biggest gamblers. The nobility often provided private ground safe from the magistrates — the law regarded the sport primarily as a disorderly assembly.

Another spectacle that attracted a good deal of popular support and elite patronage was rowing. The demise of professional rowing came as a result of the prestige of the public schools, university and Henley events, and the declining economic importance of the watermen themselves; this had led to rowing being overlooked, although it was a major sporting amusement, especially on the Thames and the Tyne, from the early eighteenth until the mid-nineteenth century.

Rowing can claim the oldest

surviving fixture in the sporting calendar named after an Irish actor and impresario, Thomas Doggett, whose Coat and Badge became the leading event for young watermen just out of their apprenticeship. Doggett's Coat and Badge was only one of a number of challenge events eagerly watched from the riverbanks by crowds that often ran into thousands.

The earliest record of a festival of rowing, or a regatta, is 1786 at Walton and it seems as if these may have attracted some "amateurs" — men who did not earn their living as watermen. By the end of the century there were at least three amateur clubs, the Star, the Arrow and the Shark, which may have combined to form the oldest and most exclusive of modern rowing clubs, the Leander, in the early nineteenth century.

Rowing success on Tyneside was quite phenomenal. Geordie rowers like Harry Clasper were idolized by miners and keelmen alike. Crowds were estimated to run into many tens of thousands for big challenge matches on public holidays. When Clasper died, his funeral was held on a Sunday "to meet the convenience of numerous bodies of working men" and crowds of between 100,000 and 130,000 lined the streets to witness the largest funeral yet held in Newcastle.

If the popular success of rowing has been forgotten, there is no mistaking the triumph of horse racing. It was transformed from a casual wager between noblemen to perhaps the most highly organized of all sports, regulated by Weatherbys' Calendar listing a wide range of meetings well in advance.

The formation of the Jockey Club in 1752 combined to strike a new commercial and bureaucratic note, albeit under strict aristocratic control. The establishment of the classic races — the St Leger in 1776, the Oaks in 1779 and the Derby in 1780 — provided the framework of modern racing, although it is important to remember that courses were not enclosed and gate money could not be charged. Until the railway permitted horses to be moved from meeting to meeting easily most were quite small, annual events held in midweek and dominated by the gentry. As late as 1840, only 17 of

137 racecourses held more than one meeting a year.

The Derby provides the single most intriguing mixture of ancient festivity and sporting innovation. Despite the efforts of the Jockey Club to regulate the event, it soon became the excuse for a mass exodus from London. Derby Day saw up to 100,000 congregate on the Downs. "The road to Epsom was crowded with all descriptions of people hurrying to the races," remarked *The Times* in 1793, "some to plunder and some to be plundered. Horses, gigs, carriages, coaches, chaises, carts and pedestrians covered with dust crowded the Downs, the people running down and jostling each other as they met in contact." Stories of trips to Epsom and drunken return journeys were part of Cockney folklore.

In fact, the mass of punters quoted did not bet on the race at all. They knew little or nothing about the form of the horses, which in any case were often impeded by dogs or spectators during the race itself as there was no properly fenced-off course. So the Derby was partly a "fair" of the ancient kind and partly a modern spectacle.

A corps of professional jockeys had come into being as part of the new division of labour between owners, trainers, riders and officials. The most famous was Sam Chifney, who rode for the Prince of Wales, and was eventually warned off for allegedly holding back a royal mount in order to lengthen the odds — with the strong presumption of connivance by the heir to the throne himself.

This happened in 1791 at Newmarket, which came to be established as the centre of the new racing world, holding seven meetings a year, each lasting several days and attracting the elite of owners and racegoers to the 2,000 Guineas from 1809 and the 1,000 Guineas for fillies from 1814.

Flat racing was now a sprint for highly bred young horses, normally two-year-olds, over a mile or so instead of longer races of four miles or more, as had been the fashion. Younger horses and shorter distances made for a less predictable result and better gambling. Alongside flat racing a vigorous winter programme of steeplechasing grew up as hunters bred ever faster hunters to

follow the fox. In 1836 a Grand Liverpool Steeplechase was held at Aintree and this race, renamed the Grand National in 1847, with its terrifying jumps soon became a new national institution.

A Steeplechase Calendar was published by the National Hunt Committee from 1867 and these events were supplemented by races run by individual hunts from the 1870s onwards — point-to-points — of which there were around 50 by 1900, including races for the Stock Exchange and the Bar members who kept hunters.

The first regular references to cricket matches appear after the Restoration. As with pugilism and horse racing, cricket seems to have been dominated by the nobility, who organized teams to play for wagers that sometimes were very large indeed. While hunting and shooting remained the single most important of aristocratic pursuits, this "leisure class" increasingly had the chance to indulge other sporting interests. Cricket was the first team game in which the upper classes were expected to exert themselves without the aid of a horse.

The first written rules of cricket were drawn up by the Duke of Richmond in 1727 for the purpose of determining the conduct and outcome of country house games where a good deal of money might be at stake. These games stimulated the formation of more permanent teams and the emergence of the "club" composed of similarly inclined individuals.

The early pattern seems to have been for a great lord to act as patron to a village side, which mixed gentlemen and talented locals. The team from the village of Slindon, run by the Duke of Richmond, may have been the first such club, and drew large crowds for its games against the "Gentlemen of London" in the 1740s.

Although the ball was rolled underarm and the range of strokes played was restricted, there is no doubting the popularity of cricket as an early spectator sport. Around 10,000 were thought to have attended the Artillery Ground, Finsbury, for a match in 1743.

The most famous of these country cricket clubs was the Hambledon Club in Hampshire, which was founded around the

middle of the century by the third son of the Duke of Bolton, and dominated cricket until the formation of the Marylebone Cricket Club in 1787. The home of the Hambledon Club was the Bat and Ball Inn overlooking "Broad Half-penny" the village green where the game was played. Hambledon took on the best sides in the country and the lack of modern transport does not seem to have stopped large crowds from assembling.

Sport was being caught up in a subtle and diffuse cultural shift — a host of changes that we now call "decent behaviour." Puritanism took issue with the playing of games on Sundays, with the cruelty of some animal sports and with the idleness, drinking and profanity generally associated with sport and the alehouse.

The nobility was prohibited from duelling but the sharpest and most sustained attack on traditional sports was focused on the baiting and killing of tethered animals. "Throwing at cocks" was also banned, although bull baiting and bull running continued for a time despite 11 Bills to outlaw them being presented to Parliament between 1800 and 1835.

Hostility to street football was shared widely in the business community. Kingston town council urged that Shrove Tuesday football be moved from the city centre in 1840, complaining: "It is not a trifling consideration that a suspension of business for nearly two days should be created to the inhabitants for the mere gratification of a sport at once useless and barbarous" ... and the Derby council had to get the support of the army to outlaw their infamous match.

**T**he "fascination" of the seventeenth century was to become the "respectability" of the nineteenth as the "civilizing process" began, at first with the social elite and then slowly throughout society. By and large, the rich came to prefer shooting to hunting; if the golden age of fox-hunting was the first half of the nineteenth century, the shooting of large numbers of carefully preserved gamebirds such as grouse, pheasant and partridge, with ever more accurate and powerful firearms was the passion of late Victorian and Edwardian England.

Huntmen were losing the long battle over the shooting of foxes and the putting up of fences. Access to shooting came through intimate networks of friendship and influence or through great riches.

Game fishing, too, became caught up in the drive for exclusivity and the intrusion of market forces into elite amusements. The peaceful world of the country angler was coming under pressure. By the 1890s, it was costing £100 or more to fish the classic chalk streams like the Test and the Trent. And at public school young men learnt the new team games of rugby and football. They played cricket and went rowing far more seriously than before: field sports came to be more closely associated with the middle-aged and even in this age group the growth of golf could offer a walk round a manicured country estate without requiring the destruction of anything but one's self-esteem.

Links between old and new ways of playing occur and recur but knur-and-spell — popular in the north of England — is perhaps one of the most remarkable examples of survival. The name comes from *knur*, a Kentish term meaning a knot of wood; "spell" probably derives from the Old Norse *spill*, meaning a game; and Norsemen apparently played a game called *murspel*.

The game involved a player hitting the "knur," a small ball rather like a large marble, with a special bat. In Lancashire the ball was suspended from a gallows-like contraption while in Yorkshire it was slipped into the air from a spring-loaded trap. In each case the object was the same: to hit the object as far as possible. Contests of 25 or so "wallops" or "rises" were held between two players or "balkers" who would often wager on the outcome. The sport always attracted spectators. In 1826, on Woodhouse Moor in Yorkshire, a match for 40 guineas was held over 40 rises and large crowds continued to flock to the moors around Sheffield, Barnsley, Colne and Rotherham. There were all kinds of little tricks to help drive the spell distances of 200 yards or more, but the essence of the game was simple enough — "The clouds it is far down / Under as the can, / Cause fustness / Wins the race. And if it comes to a mouth / (dispute) then the measures from 't'pin wi' a squer chain."

New and old sports sometimes happily coexisted — a point that can all too easily be overlooked by those who wish to set up a rigid and precise distinction between traditional and modern forms. Jerry Dawson, who was born in 1888 near Burnley, combined playing football as goalkeeper for Burnley from 1906 to 1929, winning a Cup-winners' medal and an England cap, with being a champion at knur-and-spell.

Extracted from *Sport and the British: A Modern History*, by Richard Holt (Oxford University Press, £19.50).





YACHTING: BETTER TACTICS WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO CATCH THE LEADER ON A FOURTH STAGE FRAUGHT WITH PERIL

# Round the Horn with Lady Luck

Lawrie Smith

The skipper of Rothmans, who has been reporting for *The Times* on the Whitbread Round the World Race, looks ahead to the fourth stage

After a month in port, Rothmans and her crew are eager to go on what promises to be the toughest stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race. We set out from Auckland tomorrow bound for Cape Horn with one object — to win this 6,255-mile stage — Punta del Este, Uruguay, and close the gap on Steinlager 2, our leading rival.

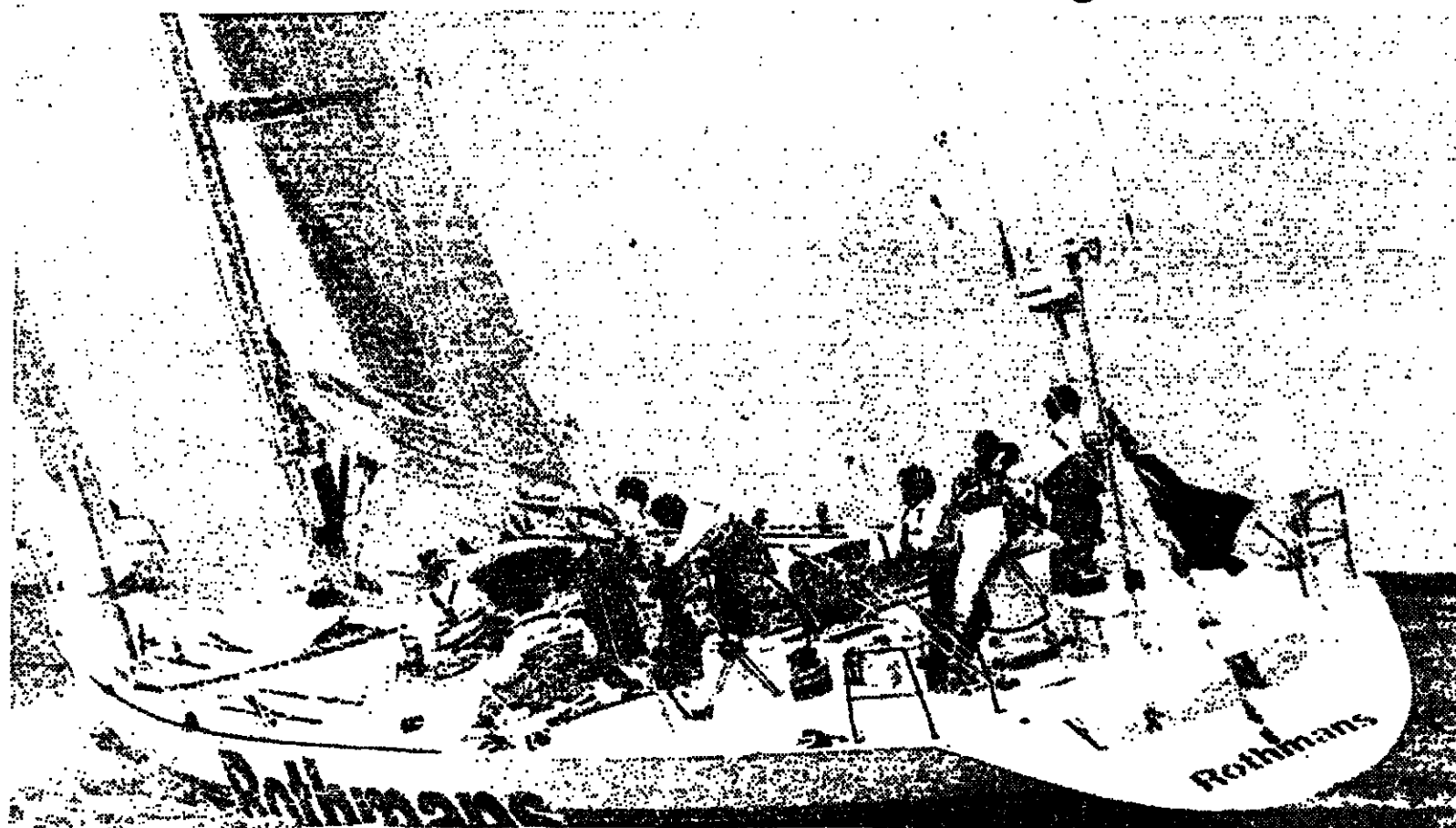
Apart from the first stage of this race down the Atlantic, when Fisher & Paykel lost her mizzen-mast and a split opened up across the deck of Rothmans, the racing has been remarkably close, with only minutes separating the first four yachts.

Grant Dalton's third-placed Fisher & Paykel, which holds a 34-hour advantage over us, and the Swiss maxi, Merit, in second position a further 20 hours ahead, remain within our sights. Peter Blake's Steinlager 2, which leads us by one day and 14 hours, presents us with the toughest challenge.

The New Zealand fractionally rigged ketch, which carries 20 per cent more sail area than our sloop, has proved half a knot faster in the predominantly offwind conditions met so far. Only when running before a heavy gale — and the weather charts promise a great deal of that during the run to the Horn — do yachts like Rothmans and Merit hold an advantage over the New Zealand ketches.

We proved that during the second stage of the race through the Southern Ocean when we averaged 19.9 knots during one memorable six-hour blast, and regularly took 40 miles a day out of Blake and his boys and 30 out of Fisher & Paykel when the going got really tough.

What stopped us breaking the elusive 400-mile-a-day barrier has been the continual round of breakages that have plagued all the yachts with the exception of Steinlager. If it was not the spinnaker pole snapping, it was the main boom cracking or the spinnaker guy shacking free from the end of the pole, invariably in



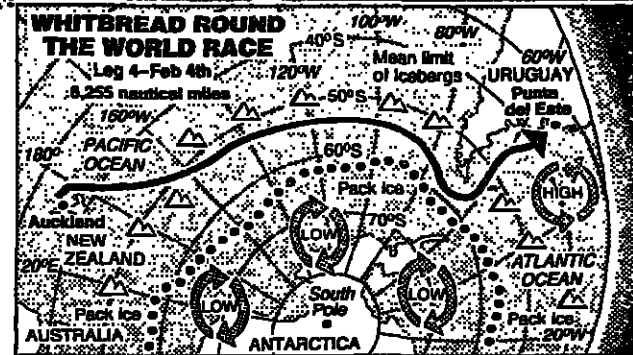
THE WHITBREAROUND THE WORLD RACE

the dead of night, that continually stopped us in our tracks. All that, we hope, is behind us. The main boom, which has cracked twice under the strain of broaching, has been rebuilt by a third set of experts during the stop-over in New Zealand. The spinnaker poles have been replaced by stronger sectioned spars and we will be carrying a third below decks as an added precaution. We have also put bolts through the pole end fittings to stop the jaws from opening at inappropriate times and throwing off the spinnaker control lines.

Our only chance of making up lost time is to push ourselves and the boat to the limits. We are going into this leg to win and, the way the crew is fired up, we will do it. Lady Luck decides to ride with us for once. We know it is going to take more than better tactics to catch Blake.

But luck, or the lack of it, has a habit of levelling itself out on a race of this length and we are ready to take advantage of any mishaps that befall our rivals.

The first lucky break could come soon after the start tomorrow. A high-pressure system hovering directly



above the North Island of New Zealand is expected to present the fleet with light airs for the first few days. The big question is whether to sail along the shortest rhumb-line course towards the Chatham Islands at seven knots, or take a slower, longer course due south in the expectation of hitting the Roaring Forties first.

Whoever is first to break clear of the high will most likely steal a significant advantage. Down in the Southern Ocean, we will be racing well inside the ice limits. During the second stage of this race, the icebergs did not always show up on radar, adding a dangerous dimension to surfing at 30 knots through freezing, fog-

shrouded seas, so we must maintain a constant vigil.

From the experience of past Whitbread races, we could also meet anything from raging tempest to flat calm at Cape Horn. The books talk of full gales most days and storms that build up to hurricane strength for three days every three months.

Flat seas at this narrow, deep divide between the grey-green waters of the Pacific and the brown Atlantic Ocean would certainly prove something of an anti-climax, but I have no wish to see this notorious corner of the world in its most angry state either. If there is any choice over when Lady Luck steps aboard Rothmans, perhaps it should be at the Horn.

Another to beat the start

After spending a month stripping down and rebuilding their yachts, the 23 crews competing in the Whitbread Round the World Race set out from Auckland at 1pm tomorrow (midnight GMT) bound for Cape Horn on the fourth stage of the 33,000-mile contest.

Steinlager 2, the New Zealand ketch, holds a 15-hour lead over Pierre Fehrmann's Swiss maxi, Merit, at this halfway stage, with the second New Zealand ketch, Fisher & Paykel, skipped by Grant Dalton, fighting off Rothmans in third place.

After 19,000 miles which have seen one life lost, five other man-overboard incidents, three cases of broken bones, two dismastings and three collisions with whales, it is a tribute to the fleet that all 23 starters remain.

Charles Jourdan, the French yacht, which collided with a whale in the last leg, returned to the water on Wednesday after a race against time to replace the three-metre-long crumpled area of hull with a new carbon fibre section, flown out from Paris.

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SPORT/LAW 55

## Reformed James will compete against his idol

By Steve Acton

Unless riding either of his motorcycles, both capable of speeds around 200 mph, or cracking home snooker balls at similar velocity, Steve James appears to be back to the point of somnolence.

The West Midlander engaged overdrive to such effect last month, however, that he beat both world number one, John Parrott, and the world champion, Steve Davis, en route to winning his first important title, the Mercantile Credit Classic in Blackpool, and has no intention of throttling back.

Tomorrow morning, at the unthinkably hour of 10.0am in snooker terms, James engages Alex Higgins, a wild card entry this year, on his debut in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley. The tournament features the world's top 16 players and for the first time two wild cards, Higgins and James.

Wattana. The winner will receive £70,000.

James has not met Higgins before in tournament play but it was not so long ago that he could hardly face himself in the morning. "Such an early morning start is no problem now," he said. "I've stopped all the late-night drinking I used to do."

"Alex was an idol of mine and we got on very well. Even though it is such an early start, because of Alex I think we'll still get a good crowd and I'll love that because it will give me a buzz."

"I'm practising harder than ever because having won one big tournament I know how important it is to keep going."

After the preambles tomorrow Willie Thorne and Dennis Taylor meet in the first round proper and in the evening Parrott, the European Open champion, plays the British Open champion, Tony Meo.

STUDENT SPORT

## Bristol happy in a wandering role

By Mark Herbert

The logistics of travel are beginning to suit Bristol University. Last week, their men's hockey and rugby union teams were away to reach the quarter-finals of the Commercial Union UAU championships, and on Wednesday, the two sides achieved the biggest surprise of the round as guests.

The hockey team beat Birmingham, the holders, 1-0. Defending well in a tight game, Bristol took the lead 15 minutes into the second half through Will Scarlett's tap-in.

Although the squad is weaker than last year, when they went out to Birmingham at the same stage, Stuart Blain, the Bristol captain, feels that teamwork has improved, particularly in defence and at short corners. His side travels to Loughborough, who needed sudden-death penalty strokes to beat Durham in the first round, 2-2, in normal time, in the semi-finals.

The journey to Newcastle failed to upset Bristol's rugby players, who scored a flurry of points late on to beat their hosts, against expectations, 21-11.

Bristol's only hiccup was a 7-1 defeat, again away, to the women's hockey champions, Loughborough, for whom Clare Slater and Karen Willis scored two goals each. Loughborough achieved a unique feat when all five of their hockey teams — three men's and two women's —

reached the UAU semi-finals. In the football championship there was a repeat of last year's final, in which teams were away to reach the quarter-finals of the Commercial Union UAU championships, and on Wednesday, the two sides achieved the biggest surprise of the round as guests.

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## Court of Appeal

### Service invalid through postal failure

*Regina v United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, Ex parte Bailey*  
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Farquharson  
[Judgment January 26]

A notice posted to a nurse concerning renewal of her registration fee was not properly served for the purpose of the relevant statutory provisions because section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978, as judicially interpreted, applied to the case and the notice was never received by the nurse.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing in part an appeal by Susan Bailey, a nurse, from the dismissal on March 13, 1989 by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Schiemann) of her judicial review of a decision by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting that her registration as a nurse had ceased to be effective and that she should pay a renewal fee in respect of her registration.

Section 7 of the 1978 Act provides: "Where an Act authorizes or requires any document to be served by post (whether the expression 'give' or 'send' or any other expression is used) then, unless the contrary intention appears, the service is deemed to be effected by properly addressing, pre-paying and posting a letter containing the document . . . and, if the document is proved to have been effected at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post."

Mr John M. Bowyer for the nurse, Mr Anthony Scriven, QC and Mr Thomas Bazendale for the council.  
LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the first issue in the appeal was whether the nurse, who was registered with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales (and in accordance with the rules then paid one registration fee for life) before the reorganization of nursing bodies wrought by the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979 came into force, could be required on the basis of various legislative provisions to pay periodic renewal fees after 1986.

His Lordship considered the provisions and found that she could be so required. The second issue was whether the nurse was given proper notice in accordance with rule 9 of the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors (Periodic Health Visitation) Amendment (No 2) Rules (SI 1986 No 2294) and hence whether the council's decision that her registration had ceased to be effective was valid.

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Mr Justice Booth so stated when giving judgment in open court at Swansea following a Family Division chambers hearing of a wife's application for financial provision and offering guidance, with the concurrence of Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, to the family law practitioners in the preparation of substantial ancillary relief cases.

Mr Rameswar Singh for the wife, Mr Martin Pointer for the husband.

Rule 9(4) provided that the council's registrar "shall, not less than 45 days before the end of the current registration period . . . send to the registered address of each registered person a written notice informing her of the fee for the next period, and that if that fee was not paid the nurse's registration would cease to be effective."

Rule 9(6) provided that the registrar "shall give not less than 45 days notice of the date by which payment of the renewal fee was required."

It was common ground that (a) the council had correctly addressed, stamped and posted a letter to the nurse containing the requisite notice and (b) the nurse (as she was in a position to prove) had never received it.

In *R v County of London Quarter Sessions Appeals Committee, Ex parte Rossi* (1956) 1 QB 682, 709, Lord Justice Parker said that under the first part of (what was now) section 7 of the 1978 Act a document which was dispatched in the manner laid down was deemed to have been served.

However, if under the legislation in question the document had to be received by a certain time, the second part of section 7 came into play, and if "the contrary [was] proved", that is, it was proved that the document was not received by that time or at all, service was not deemed.

On the proper construction of Rule 9(4) and (6), the registrar's notice had to be received at least 45 days before the day fixed for payment of the renewal fee.

The second part of section 7 therefore, had to be considered, and, as the nurse never received the notice, the council must fail on the second issue.

His Lordship did not accept Mr Scriven's alternative submission that on a true appreciation of *Rossi* it was only necessary to show receipt or deemed receipt by the addressee if non-receipt would have serious consequences for the addressee, because, *inter alia*, no such qualification was to be found in section 7.

In any event the consequences for the nurse — that she would in effect lose her professional qualification — were important.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON, also concurring, said that one could sympathize with the council since over a million notices had to be given or sent. If the statute had contained a provision that service was deemed to be effected by posting a pre-paid letter the result might have been different, but in the event the matter was governed by section 7.

Solicitors: Mr S. J. Lorber, Holloway; Winckworth & Pemberton.

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## Law Report February 3 1990

### Intent in attempted rape

*Regina v Khan*  
*Regina v Dholia*  
*Regina v Banga*  
*Regina v Faiz*  
Before Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Morland  
[Judgment January 26]

An offence of attempted rape was committed when the defendant was reckless as to the woman's consent to sexual intercourse.

The requisite intent of the defendant was precisely the same in that offence as in rape and the *mens rea* was identical, namely an intention to have intercourse plus a knowledge of or recklessness as to the woman's absence of consent.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeals of Mohammed Iqbal Khan, Mahesh Dholia, Jaswinder Singh Banga and Navaid Faiz, against their convictions on July 24, 1987 at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Rant, QC and a jury) of the attempted rape of a girl aged 16.

The appeals of Khan, who was aged 18 on conviction, and Banga, aged 20, against sentences of five and seven years youth custody respectively were dismissed.

The appeals of Dholia, aged 18 on conviction, and Faiz, aged 20, against sentences of five and seven years youth custody respectively were dismissed.

Section 1 of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 provides:

"(1) For the purpose of section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956, a man commits rape if — (a) he has unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman who at the time of the intercourse does not consent to it; and (b) at that time he knows that she does not consent to the intercourse or he is reckless as to whether she consents to it."

Section 1 of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981 provides:

"(1) If, with intent to commit an offence to which this section applies (which includes rape), a person does an act which is more than merely preparatory to the commission of the offence, he is guilty of attempting to commit the offence."

Mr Howard Shaw, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Khan; Mr Peter Corrigan, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Dholia; Mr Michael West, QC and Miss Indira Ramasahay (neither of whom appeared below) for Banga; Mr William Boyce (who did not appear below), assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Faiz; Mr Michael Austin-Smith for the Crown.

Dholia, at a day-time discotheque in Uganda.

Whether she accompanied Dholia and four other youths in a motor car which was driven to an address in Uxbridge where the occupants of the car, who included Faiz and Khan as well as Dholia, were joined by others, including Banga.

Inside the house Dholia, without success, attempted to have sexual intercourse with the girl. He was followed by others. Three youths succeeded in having sexual intercourse; three others, attempted to have sexual intercourse but failed. The girl did not consent to any sexual activity in the house or not, and she did not travel to a friend's house where she made a complaint.

The judge, in directing the jury on the offence of rape, said that if they decided that the girl had not consented, the next question was whether the defendant in question knew that she was not consenting.

If they were unsure on that they had to go on to ask whether he was reckless as to whether she was consenting or not, and "reckless" in that context could be simply defined as the state of mind of the particular defendant that he could not care less whether she consented or not.

Dealing with the charges of attempted rape, the judge told the jury that the principles relevant to consent applied in exactly the same way.

It was submitted that that amounted to a material misdirection, for it was argued that recklessness, as a state of mind on the part of the offender, had no place in the offence of attempted rape.

The impact of the words of section 1 of the 1981 Act and in particular the words "with intent to commit an offence" had been the subject matter of much debate among distinguished academic writers.

In "The Problem of Reckless Intent" (1983) Crim L Rev 365, Professor Glanville Williams advanced the argument that recklessness could exist within the concept of attempt and support was derived from *R v Pigg* (1982) 1 WLR 762, albeit

that authority was concerned with the law prior to the 1981 Act.

That approach also received approval from *Smith and Hogan, Criminal Law* (6th edition) (1988) 287-289.

Contrary views, however, had been expressed by Professor Croom and Mr Richard Buxton, QC, who had both contended that the words "with intent to commit an offence" involved an intent as to every element constituting the crime.

Finally, the Lordships had regard to the observations of Lord Justice Mustill in *R v Millard and Vernon* (unreported, December 10, 1986, CA) where, in relation to the offence of attempted rape, the question was posed:

"Must the prosecution prove not only that the defendant intended the act, but also that he intended it to be non-consensual? Or should the jury be directed to consider the defendant's state of mind, intent as to the act and recklessness as to the circumstances?"

In their Lordships' judgment an acceptable analysis of the offence of rape was as follows:

1 The intention of the offender was to have sexual intercourse with a woman.

2 The offence was committed if but only if the circumstances were that (a) the woman did not consent to the intercourse; and (b) the defendant knew that she was not consenting or was reckless as to whether she consented.

Precisely the same analysis could be made of the offence of attempted rape and the *mens rea* of the two offences was that in rape sexual intercourse took place whereas in attempted rape it did not, although there had to be some act which was more than preparatory to sexual intercourse.

Considered in that way the intent of the defendant was precisely the same in rape and in attempted rape and the *mens rea* was identical, namely an intention to have intercourse plus knowledge of or recklessness as to the woman's absence of consent.

No question of attempting to achieve a reckless state of mind arose, the attempt related to the

physical activity; the mental state of the defendant was the same.

A man did not recklessly have sexual intercourse, nor did he recklessly attempt it. Recklessness in rape and attempted rape arose not in relation to the physical act of intercourse but only in his state of mind when engaged in the activity of having or attempting to have sexual intercourse.

If that was the true analysis, the attempt did not require any different intent on the part of the accused from that for the full offence of rape.

Their Lordships believed that to be a desirable result which in the instant case did not require the jury to be burdened with different directions as to the accused's state of mind, dependent upon whether the individual achieved or failed to achieve sexual intercourse.

Their Lordships recognized that their reasoning could not apply to all offences and all attempts. Where, for example, as in causing death by reckless driving or reckless arson no state of mind other than recklessness was involved in the offence, there could be no attempt to commit it.

In their Lordships' judgment the words "with intent to commit an offence" in section 1 of the 1981 Act meant, when applied to rape, "with intent to have sexual intercourse with a woman in circumstances where she does not consent and the defendant knows or could not care less about her absence of consent."

The only "intent", giving that word its natural and ordinary meaning, of the rapist was to have sexual intercourse. He committed the offence because of the circumstances in which he manifested that intent, that is, when the woman was not consenting and he either knew it or could not care less about the absence of consent.

Accordingly, in their Lordships' view, the judge was right to give the directions that he did when inviting the jury to consider the charges of attempted rape.

Solicitors: Mackenzie Knight, Southall; for Banga, CFS, Central Court.

### Concern over heavy family legal costs

*Evans v Evans*  
Before Mrs Justice Booth  
[Judgment January 26]

The judges of the Family Division were gravely concerned about the heavy legal costs which were being incurred in family provision matters which meant that they were unable to make appropriate provision orders for wives and children because of the liability for legal costs.

Mrs Justice Booth so stated when giving judgment in open court at Swansea following a Family Division chambers hearing of a wife's application for financial provision and offering guidance, with the concurrence of Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, to the family law practitioners in the preparation of substantial ancillary relief cases.

Mr Rameswar Singh for the wife, Mr Martin Pointer for the husband.

MRS JUSTICE BOOTH said that the wife sought a clean financial break from the husband and periodical payments for the two children of the family who lived with her.

The matter had caused her Ladyship much anxiety because of the amount of the costs which had been incurred when compared with the assets available to meet the needs of the parties.

The husband's costs amounted to £35,000 and the wife's to £25,000. The available assets consisted of two properties, both subject to mortgages, which were the homes of the respective parties, and the husband's shareholding in a small company which provided his livelihood and that of the children and would not be sold in the foreseeable future. The wife was legally aided and had no independent means.

Her Ladyship issued some general guidelines: Affidavit evidence should be confined to relevant facts and should not be prolix or diffuse. Each party should file a substantive affidavit dealing with matters to which the court should have regard under section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, as substituted by section 3 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1984, and matters which were material to the application.

If any further affidavit was necessary it should be confined to answers to a serious allegation made by the other party dealing with any serious issue raised or setting out any material change of circumstances.

2 Inquiries made under rule 77 of the Matrimonial Causes Rules (SI 1977 No 344 (L5)) should, as far as possible, be contained in one comprehensive

questionnaire and should not be made piecemeal.

3 Wherever possible valuations of properties should be obtained from a valuer jointly instructed by both parties. Where each party instructed a valuer their reports should be exchanged and the valuers should meet in an attempt to resolve differences.

4 While it might be necessary to obtain a broad assessment of the value of a shareholding in a private company it was inappropriate to undertake an expensive and meaningless exercise to achieve a precise valuation of a private company which would not be sold (*P v P* (The Times February 3, 1989)).

5 Professional witnesses should be careful to avoid a partisan approach and should maintain professional standards.

6 Care should be taken in deciding what evidence, other than professional evidence, should be adduced and emotive issues which were not material should be avoided. Where affidavit evidence was filed deponents had to be available for cross-examination on notice from the other side.

7 Duplication of documents should be avoided. Both solicitors should prepare together the bundles of documents required at the hearing and should agree what should be included and what excluded.

8 A chronology of material facts should be agreed and made available to the court.

9 In a substantial case it might be desirable to have a pre-trial review to explore the possibility of settlement and to define the issues if settlement could not be reached to ensure readiness for hearing.



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## TRAVEL

●TAHITI: EMBRACING NATURE  
●SKIING: SOUTH OF FRANCE

Ann Morrow goes in search of the essential Irish country house: tangles of fishing rods, log fires at dusk, and butter and cream with everything

# Peace comes dropping slow...

Ms Constance Aldridge presides like a benevolent brigadier over the seven and a half miles of River Moy which she owns in County Mayo. Once the preserve of "real gentry", this part of Ireland still has superb fishing. This doughty widow is one of a group who have opened their country houses and transformed Irish cooking. It could never be called minimalist. Butter and cream go into everything except a morning cup of tea. Eggs are rarely more than a day old, fish is mother-of-pearl fresh and nettles flavour cheese. The tremble in the wrist of the local girl serving a French dish she has just learnt to pronounce is part of the charm.

A passion for carving carrots into flowers and serving food in conservatories is a hazard of this new enthusiasm. Dignified old houses have become chocolate boxes and been garlanded with swags and festoons. Smoky white walls now glow yellow and pink, like a dowager vividly made up after a lifetime of fresh air on pale cheeks.

Happily, though, many have still kept that endearing clutter of wellingtons, well-thumbed copies of *The Field*, sleeping cats in tall chairs, fishing rods, and chiming clocks telling the wrong time. Gardens are rampant with rhododendrons, stone urns brim with weeds.

Mount Falcon is three miles from Lough Conn, where brown trout teasingly skim limestone water and ducks skirt the reeds and water lilies. The long avenue, bushy in summer with pink and blue hydrangeas, is sandwiched between meadows of buttercups and Jersey cows.

A cheerful girl appears in the hall and swings a large suitcase upstairs as if it were as light as a dozen eggs. Mrs Aldridge, who was 19 when she read Mrs Beeton on "how to dress a staff", explains: "That's Bridie, my little fat laughing girl."

A silver tureen is borne into the centre of a long candlelit table as a gong sounds at eight. Delicate sorrel soup, the deft use of lovage,

jugged hare with marmalade; this intuitive cooking is appreciated particularly by the French. A party regularly sets out on December 26 for the rough shooting and pike fishing, and arrives, their hostesses says, "laden with gorgeous chocolates, bottles of champagne and Chanel No 5". Their wives accept this other woman, who has been 70 for at least 10 years.

One of the pleasures, after a 40-minute flight to Dublin, and picking up a car, was getting lost. Searching for a Georgian farmhouse near Wexford, I asked advice from a cyclist leaving a public house with a window full of nuns' black shoes, who needed to ask "where did you start from?" before telling me the way to the village town. He himself set out in the misty heat, but on putting a hand out to the right, fell into a ditch on the left.

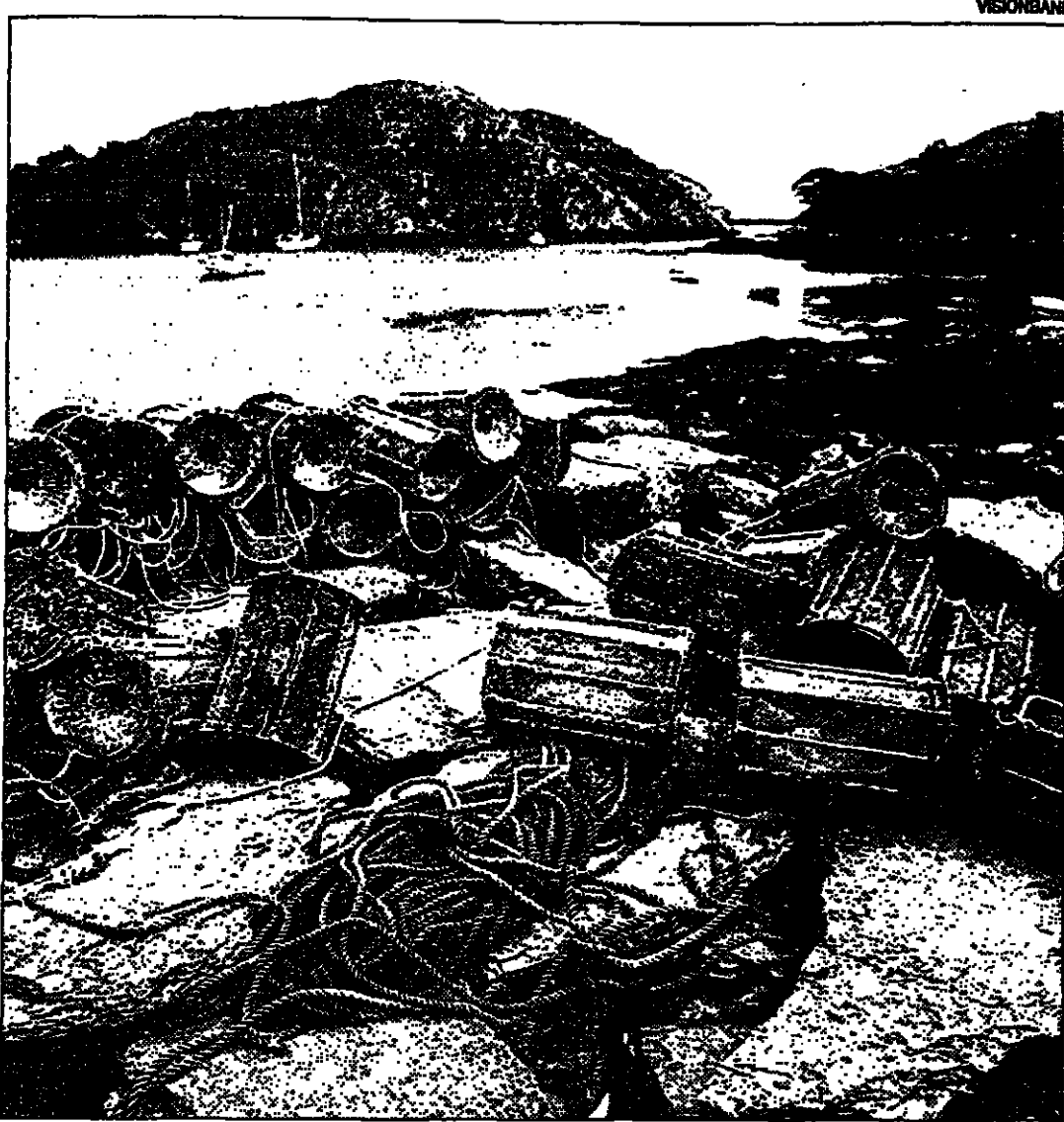
The farmhouse rejoicing in the name Horntown House is run by a sweet-faced woman called Vera Young who asks you in her soft voice to make a wish as soon as you arrive.

High on a hill, with an old fig tree and acres of raspberries and blackcurrants, it is so congenial and unpretentious that a walk from a huge bedroom with heavy mahogany furniture to a shared bathroom is bearable. In the cellar, Ivan, a dark-eyed son of the house, cooks gargantuan steaks broadening the girth of Wexford Opera Festival aesthetes.

A woman travelling on her own can be over-sensitive. The brochure for Longueville in Cork boasts that the house "sits on an eminence" overlooking the "Irish Rhine". From a small, dark bedroom without bath, the view was not of the Blackwater or of Ireland's only vineyard, but of a busy back yard.

However, food served in a flowery conservatory was imaginative and a pot of home-made jam was pressed into the hand next morning. Ireland disarms.

Ballymaloe (pronounced loo), also in Cork, was one of the first of the country houses to open, and food no longer comes straight



Fish, straight from the sea, is offered mother-of-pearl fresh: lobster creels by Loch Hyne in County Cork

from the inspired hands of Myrtle Allen, Ireland's answer to Elizabeth David. These days it is her skinny daughter-in-law, Darina, who is the cult figure, teaching the art of original country house flavours at Shanagarry.

Like a Pied Piper, she leads her class to Ballycotton Harbour to choose fish straight from small wooden boats as gulls circle

greedily overhead. Accommodation is in 18th-century pink-washed converted farmhouses close to apple orchards and an enchanted herb garden.

But it is the west in summer which captivates, where the Atlantic rumples into tiny inlets, bath water runs peaty brown and it is light till 11. This is the land of wild beaches and Celtic crosses, where

foxgloves grow as high as cottage half-doors, and huge pieces of grass sprout from chimney pots.

The road to Cashel Bay ribbons round chocolate bogs glistening where turf has been freshly cut. Rocks have strange white imprints like fishbones and lanky schoolboys sit kicking their legs sucking the honey from fuchsia. The peacocks have gone now

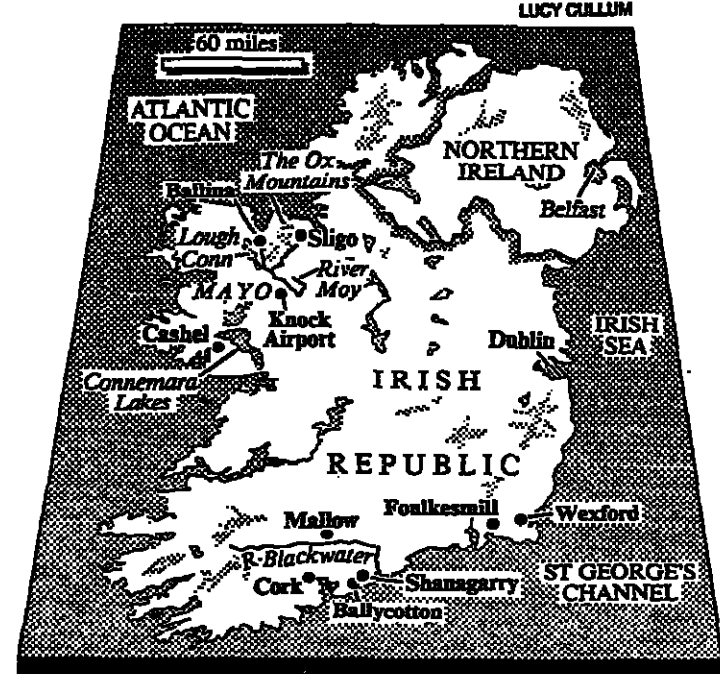
from Cashel House Hotel, in disgrace because they liked to eat the lavender. An Irish wolfhound, big enough to ride, lay on a lawn circled by roses and hydrangeas, paws upturned to a sinking sun.

"People open up like flowers here," say Desmond and Kay McEvilly, owners of this mid 19th-century white house where private people including Sir Alec Guinness and General de Gaulle found peace.

It was one of life's great experiences to cycle late one night after a rich, creamy supper. Only a farmer passed and raised his head cap mumbled a shy "lo". The air was tingling and smelt of peat, the light was inky blue.

It was "home" then, to nod off in the firelight over one of the books on shells and wild flowers piled high on a lace-canopied table.

The essence of the Irish country house has always been a log fire crackling at dusk, a sitting room scented with sage and rose petals, the smell of baking pastry, snatches of song from the kitchen and a door forever open to the night.



## TRAVEL NOTES

● Mount Falcon Castle, Ballina, Co Mayo (010 353 96 21172), bed and breakfast £27-35; Horntown House, Foulkesmill, Co Wexford (010 353 51 6363/63706), £11; Longueville House, Mallow, Co Cork (010 353 22 47156), £36-54; Cashel House Hotel, Cashel, Co Galway (010 353 95 31001), from £27; Ballymaloe House, Shanagarry, Co Cork (010 353 21 65253), £34-38.  
● For further details contact the Irish Tourist Board (01-493 3201). Flight information from Aer Lingus (01-569 5555).

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Romania or Bulgaria, so  
these countries' flag carriers -  
JAT (Yugoslavia), Balkan  
(Bulgaria) and Tarom (Romania)  
- must be used instead.

**FLY EAST, WITH DIFFICULTY**  
Blame politics for the mixed  
bag of flight schedules. Some  
destinations (Bucharest, Len-  
ingrad and Sofia) are served  
infrequently, while others  
(West Berlin and Moscow)  
enjoy regular flights and have  
a choice of airlines.

**FLY EAST, WITH DIFFICULTY**  
The London/Moscow route  
is served by four airlines: BA  
and Aeroflot (the Soviet flag-  
carrier) in addition to Richard  
Branson's Virgin Atlantic and  
the Japanese independent air-  
line All Nippon Airways (ANA),  
which touches down in  
Moscow en route for Tokyo.  
Virgin and ANA can thank the  
new Soviet political climate  
for being allowed to carry  
passengers between London  
and Moscow.

**FLY EAST, WITH DIFFICULTY**  
Politics have even more of a  
say when it comes to flying to  
West Berlin. Under an Allied  
agreement signed at the end of  
the Second World War, only  
British, American and French  
airlines may fly to West  
Berlin, and then only in air  
corridors which are strictly  
controlled by the Soviet and  
East German aviation authori-  
ties. Two airlines - BA and  
America's Pan Am - operate  
regular flights between Lon-

**FLY EAST, WITH DIFFICULTY**  
don and West  
Berlin, and the  
British inde-  
pendent airline Dan Air  
comes on to the route on  
March 25. West Germany's  
Lufthansa has been barred  
from Berlin (both West and  
East) for the past 45 years.

**FLY EAST, WITH DIFFICULTY**  
Most East European airlines  
fly with Russian-built aircraft  
which have little passenger  
appeal. But JAT and Tarom  
are exceptions. JAT flies  
mainly with US-built jets,  
while Tarom operates British  
Aerospaced 1-11 jets, some  
of which were built in  
Romania under licence.

**FLY EAST, WITH DIFFICULTY**  
Service standards, both in  
the air and on the ground, are  
below Western levels of  
expectation. JAT is probably  
the best of the bunch and  
certainly it is the only Eastern  
bloc carrier to operate along  
Western lines.

**FLY EAST, WITH DIFFICULTY**  
With most countries having  
only limited facilities to  
accommodate tourists, the air-  
lines have had little incentive  
to attract holidaymakers. Ticket  
prices are above average with  
a choice of APEX (Ad-  
vance Purchase Excursion)  
and PEX (Instant Purchase)  
fares. APEX tickets must be  
booked at least 14 days ahead  
(28 days in the case of Russia),  
while PEX fares are fine for  
impulse travellers, but costly.

**FLY EAST, WITH DIFFICULTY**  
Fortunately, the flight com-  
pulsors (companies that  
book blocks of seats on sched-  
uled flights) have saved the  
day by marketing lower fares  
that are free of APEX-style  
restrictions.

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## TRAVEL



Surfers' snow: new falls suit the ski surfers, who look free and relaxed with their sideways stance and arms held high and wide to help their balance

## Pampered off the piste

There is nothing quite like a good pampering or a good flatting for improving one's outlook on life. I had been prepared to look sourly on Isola 2000 when the promised helicopter turned into a pumpkin due to there being rather a lot of weather on the Côte d'Azur last weekend.

Instead of a 20-minute hop from the palm-lined seafloor at Nice to the pistes of the Alpes Maritimes, there were two uncomfortable hours in back of a Citroën of a certain age. Added to Friday traffic on the road to the airport, the usual crush in Heathrow's

Terminal One departure lounge, and another hour in the air, I began to wonder if all this travelling was worth the trouble for a couple of days' second-division skiing. But from then on things began to look up.

Even before it collected its share of last week's snow, Isola was doing a remarkable job of conserving the previous fall which had arrived before Christmas. Its principal ski area, the nor-nor-east facing Domaine du Pelevois had natural snow from top to bottom. True, it was unforgivingly hard and in places icy, but in bright sunshine I had a lovely time. That's

**Shona Crawford**  
**Poole enjoyed a weekend of flattery and good skiing at Isola 2000**

where the flattery came in. The first day's skiing of the new season is always a bit scary. Last year's comfortable boots feel as if they are on the wrong feet, and an attempt at a mental rehearsal of skiing draws a blank. As usual, I cannot think how to ski and, as usual, my legs remember.

And Didier approved of my style. Well, when a personable instructor in a Schiaparelli pink suit praises your efforts, things have a tendency to go rather well. We skied pretty well everything that was open, and as a distraction from the limitations this imposed — all the steep or potentially bumpy slopes were shut — we worked hard on those quick, precise turns which come in handy in steep, narrow places.

His prescription was "more dynamic up-weighting to achieve a rebound". It felt just about as silly as it sounded till a rhythm built up. We bounced down the mountain in short, tutorial takes.

On Saturday night it snowed, and that is where the pampering came in. Isola 2000 is best known for its purpose-built apartment and hotel blocks, indoor shopping and restaurant mall, and for its sunbather record. It is pretty efficient, not much to look at, and on fine weekends it is invaded by skiers up from the coast.

Recent upgrading included the building of the Diva, a luxurious chalet-style hotel with valet ski-parking, satellite television, swish bathrooms, and a kitchen staff trained and directed by Albert Roux of Le Gavroche. Offered hot foie gras on coin-sized potato pancakes, served in front of a log fire while snowflakes whirl past the window... and who needs trumpets?

Breakfast brought a basket of feathery Roux croissants, pain au chocolat and brioches. Outside it was still chucking it. Visibility was poor to negligible and Philippe replaced Didier. Goggled, and muffled against ice down the back of the neck, we emerged from the lift into a blizzard. But beneath our skis there was thick, soft snow.

In these conditions the advantage of following an instructor who knows every inch of the terrain is obvious.

The snow may have been new but it was not light and watching the surfers swooping through the trees it was clear that there was the better sport for the day. With their sideways stance and pole-free arms held wide for balance, they looked freer and more fluid than conventional skiers. It snowed the rest of the day and most of the night, clearing just in time for a crack-of-dawn start back to the office on Monday. It was going to be a great day for those who could stay, but snowploughs had been up even earlier, so there was no choice but to stick to the plan. I was back at my desk before lunchtime.

### TRAVEL NOTES

● The Hotel Diva (010 33 9323 1771) charges high season rates at weekends. A double room with breakfast and lunch or dinner from the à la carte menu costs £220 per couple per night. When snow conditions are good you can ski to the door. If they are not, guests are ferried to the lifts and collected by the hotel's chauffeur. The £10 skiers' menu at lunch offers unusually good value and non-residents are welcome. A helicopter (seats five) from Nice costs £400 each way. Taxi (max four), £90. Bus £7. ● British Airways (01-597 4000) flies daily to Nice from £158 return.

## Ski the vertical mile

**It's a long flight to Canada but the skiing is worth it, Doug Sager says**

person, running from two different base locations to above the tree line. But Whistler Mountain only has one high-speed quad chair, though there are plans to replace the older, slower chairs soon. That's not good enough for Al and Irene, who are in a hurry to zip up Blackcomb on that mountain's four express quads. The way they figure it, Blackcomb's lifts are so fast that you can squeeze what would normally be a whole day's downhill skiing into one morning, after which you are too tired to continue.

Al and Irene never ski Whistler Mountain anymore, though they did for more than a dozen years and though they have a season pass which covers both hills. They find Blackcomb's impeccable grooming, fall line designer slopes and express lifts compellingly user-friendly.

**Blackcomb is, in the words of its president Hugh Smythe, "the state of the art ski resort in North America"**

"But you really ought to take one day just to go over and ski Whistler Mountain," they urged, for old time's sake.

I did and felt at home. The skiing over at Whistler is, dare I say it, more "European". Of course the grooming is still superior to any European resort outside Zermatt or Courchevel. But the terrain is a little more rugged, more scratchy than at Blackcomb. The trails twist and traverse more through the trees. Both mountains offer serious off-piste powder terrain. But Blackcomb's Sautan Couloir, with its official warning sign, "Tighten Your Sphincter", has to be the most radical marked trail anywhere. After hanging down that one when there really was not enough snow, cruising the straight-line carpet-smooth Blackcomb pistes I felt as if I had died and gone to heaven. Well, you can't ski all day.

And in the sometimes cold, damp and cloudy climate of maritime British Columbia you probably won't want to ski every day either. Whistler resort is an area of lakes, parks and forests. I circumnavigated the scenery on an afternoon's mountain bike ride along marked trails which also double as hiking or cross-country.

In the pedestrian-only complex of Whistler Village I whiled away hours in the only full-scale bookstore I have ever seen in a ski resort, and spent anxious moments looking for a drinkable wine in the government-operated off-licence. The ski shops team with items I have found unavailable in Britain, like Sorrell snowboots for £50 and Grandoe "glove systems" for £75.

The food in Whistler is a world away from expensive, bland American resort fare. On the mountain a slice of fresh-baked pizza, sour cream carrot cake and a gallon of Coke did me nicely at lunch. If you go for the traditional European ski resort lunch, I mean more than two glasses of wine or beer, don't be surprised when the waiter advises you politely but pointedly not to ski this afternoon.

In the evening, I finally found out what Whistler means by "European charm". At the Val d'Isère restaurant, run by an "escaped" English accountant and a chef from Alsace, I had a meal I would have thought unobtainable outside France, and at half the price one could expect in any French resort. Three toques for Whistler.

### TRAVEL NOTES

● No British tour operators go to Whistler. For the full Canadian experience, fly Canadian/Wardair which is offering a special return fare of £335 to Vancouver. Whistler is directly from the airport (550) in half an hour with Canadian Helicopters scheduled service. ● Hotels from the Canadians of Chateau Whistler at £90 a night to non-smoking £8.5 from £25. Condo (self-catered flats) are popular, from £50 per couple. ● Many skipass options, but around £100 per week for dual-mountain pass. ● For further information contact the Whistler Resort Association, Whistler BC, VON 150 Canada (0101 604 932 4222).

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### TRAVEL NEWS

#### Staying put

It begins to look as if a great many people are banking on next summer being as glorious as last. Country Holidays (0282 445566), which has 5,000 cottages and other properties on its books, reports bookings a third up on last year, and Devon and Cornwall almost sold out for the peak season.

#### Away day

Taking a classic train to a classic race is not a cheap day out at £295 a head. But when the train is the Venice Simplex-Orient Express, the race is the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on May 5, and brunch, lunch, tea, supper, all with appropriate liquid refreshment are served, it could be memorable (01-928 6000).

● Poundstretcher has another batch of good deals to ski in Keystone, Colorado, US, with one week in March from £299 (0293 548822).

S.C.P.  
Travel Editor

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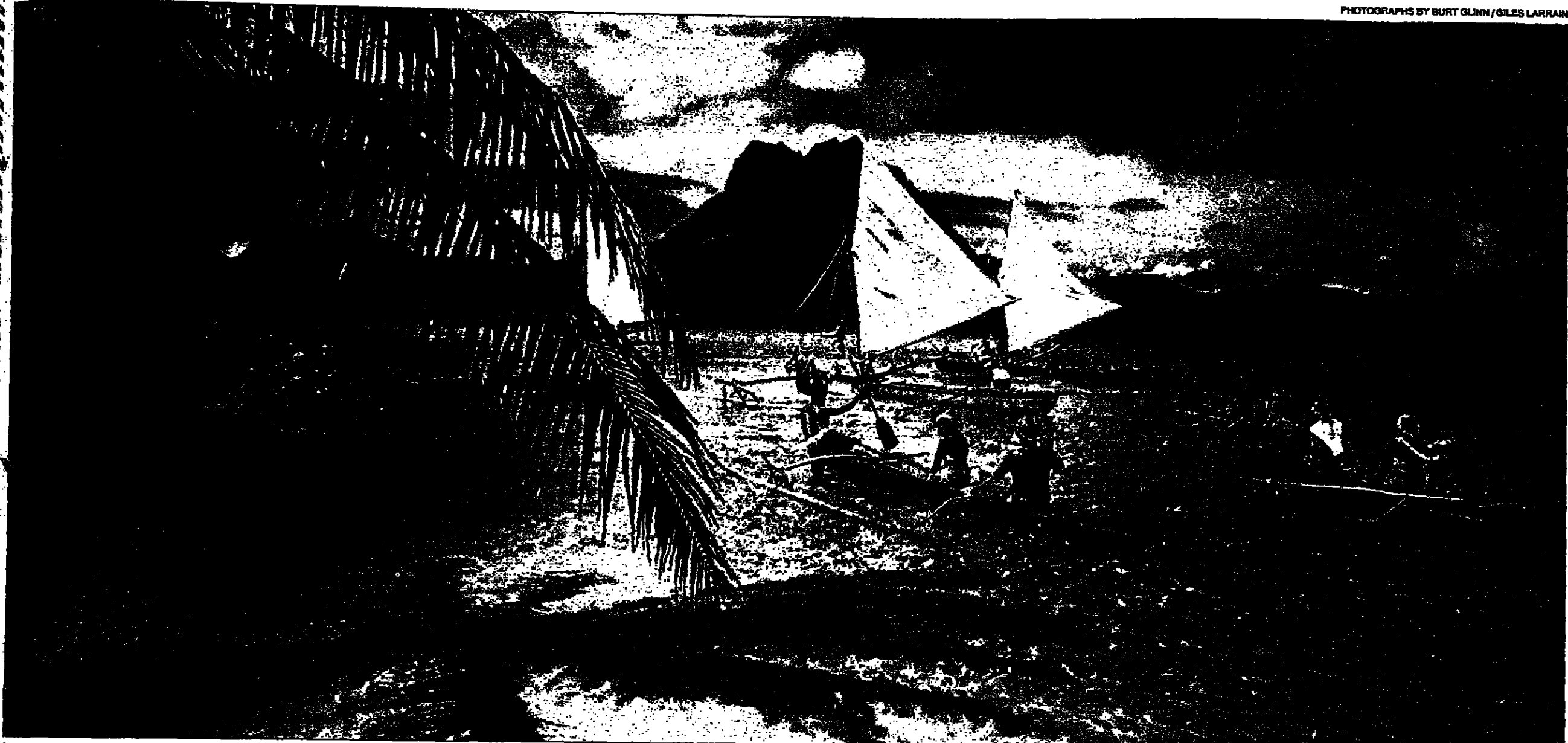
هكذا من الأصل



## TRAVEL

## Tantalized by a Tahitian smile

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BURT GLINN / GILES LARRAIN



Island of dreams: "Bora-Bora has been clever-clever in becoming a household name... Not bad going for six miles by two and a half of eroded volcano," says Michael Watkins, who, none the less, found himself sailing and singing in a three-day rainstorm

**T**wenty-six hours of travelling may have scrambled my brains. For, on that first evening in Tahiti, when I could have been lustily drunk or asleep, I went to a cemetery. Yet I knew precisely why I was there: someone had told me that Tahitians are unafraid of death because they are unafraid of life. It seemed a good place to start, where, on the "Ideal Reef" of Papeete in 1914, Rupert Brooke wrote:

*And all lovely things, they say,  
Meet in Loveliness again.  
It was the eve of some  
festival or other. Each grave  
had been scattered with  
golden sand and variously  
sprinkled with flowers. One  
man had died of alcoholism (a  
not uncommon way out in  
these parts). His headstone  
enclosed by a stockade of  
upside-down bottles of Hin-  
ano, the local juice. Flowers!  
The heady, sweet scent of  
frangipani, the Tiare Tahiti  
gardenias. This scent remind-  
ed me of violence and sex.*

*Ici repose Poanikaitania,  
read a memorial. There were  
other names: Faatau Mam-  
ma'u, Tipae Tepuaitauini,  
Teri Tematahiapo. How dare  
they die, with such glorious  
names they had no right dying.  
But Tahitians have no concept  
of "forever": sunsets fade,  
flowers wilt, the lover steals  
away. Hence Tahitian-style  
marriage. There is no Tahitian  
word for illegitimacy because  
all new life is innocent, but  
there is a word, *faa*, a stage of  
"had-enough", which is like  
saying: "The party's over;  
time for laughter to end."*

From a distance, these  
thoughts return to me in  
snatches. In my mind's eye, I  
catch a tantalizing glimpse of a  
woman's half-smile, proffered  
in Papeete market; it was  
unlike an airline smile or a  
hotel smile, professional and  
packaged. I recall a friend  
telling me of a break-in at her  
home: from the bedroom a

**Michael Watkins**  
explores the  
bewitching  
magic of the  
South Seas  
islanders of  
French Polynesia

burglar had stolen one bank-  
note, re-arranging the rest in  
the pattern of a flower on her  
dressing-table, fanning out the  
notes like petals.

Fletcher Christian, of the  
"Bounty", is said to have been  
bewitched by the Tahitian  
women, but I do not know  
whether today's *wahine* is  
more sensual, more volup-  
tuous than western women;  
only about half the Tahitian  
women are pure maohi, with  
ebony hair adorned with  
hibiscus, dressed in *pareos*.

I cannot say whether there  
are more temptresses than  
telephonists, more seduc-  
tresses than seamstresses. I  
only know that they wear  
crowns of laurels on their  
heads, leis of flowers around  
their necks and that their  
smiles are secretive, sleepy  
and womanly wise. I do not  
even know whether, living this  
side of Paradise, they worry  
about the future.

Perhaps they should. For  
the 1,000 deaths in French  
Polynesia in 1985, only 95  
death certificates were issued.  
Official reports stated that 200  
died from "no specific cause".

Since 1966, more than 100  
nuclear test explosions on  
Mururoa atoll have allowed  
radioactive material to escape  
into the ocean. Polynesians  
employed by the French army  
have been warned not to eat  
seafood but, as Mamahati  
Temaru, the mayor of Papeete,  
told me: "Fish is our staple

diet. Too much is unex-  
plained; France keeps us in the  
dark. But I know that Tahiti-  
ans are dying of exposure to  
radiation. We are all at risk."

There is, as if we needed  
reminding, a serpent in every  
garden of Eden, and you can-  
not eradicate this particular  
vermin by putting down rat  
poison. Once, the Tahitians  
would have unleashed their  
*tikis* and *tapuapaus* - ancestral  
spiritual ghosts - against such  
a threat, but those days have  
gone, since they accepted the  
Bible as their magic book.

Can a people be tactile and  
supine, both at the same time?  
Almost profligate in their need  
to embrace nature, how can  
they so quiescently await the  
doom count?

Ask me another. Ask me  
why, when Gauguin hangs in  
the galleries of London, Paris  
and Washington, not one  
original canvas remains where  
it belongs - in Tahiti's Gau-  
guin Museum? There are  
clues, contained very plausi-  
bly in Gauguin's paintings  
themselves, which convey the  
basic simplicity of Tahitian  
life: a child eats a mango; two  
semi-naked girls bear fruit and  
flowers, those almost-smiles  
masking emotions which  
should never be blatant.

**R**ed herrings there  
are, too; shoals of  
them in Maugh-  
am's novel, *The  
Moon and Six-  
pence*. But the most conclu-  
sive evidence rests surely with  
Rupert Brooke:

*And the Flower, of which we  
love  
Faint and fading shadows  
here;*

*Never a tear, but only Grief.  
Distractingly close, 12 miles  
from Papeete, lies Moorea  
with its shark's tooth peak  
Mou'aroa, which starred in  
the film *South Pacific* as the  
mythical Bali H'ai. Here I was  
chauffeured by Albert, a taxi  
driver who relieved me of the  
imponderables, being loqua-  
cious, pithy and irreverent.*

I heard about his three  
wives, 12 children, about  
inflation and the contagions of  
television, which arrived in  
1986 when the island was  
plugged in to the mains. He  
told me how much he paid for  
his Subaru car, swivelling his  
head to see if I was hooked on  
the barbs of his incredulity.  
He said that he could arrange a  
special price for a *tamaaraa*, a  
local feast. But to give him  
his due, he was bang on time  
when, at Sam, I needed a lift to  
the airport.

The island of Bora-Bora has  
been clever-clever in becom-  
ing a household name. Not  
bad going for six miles by two  
and a half of eroded volcano  
150 miles from Tahiti. In the  
Second World War it became  
a US Naval base, with a  
garrison of 6,000 men waiting  
to repel the Japanese, who  
never turned up. Eventually,  
the Americans returned to  
Idaho or wherever, bequeath-  
ing to Bora-Bora a couple of  
jetty, seaplane ramps and a  
brood of children with blue  
eyes and hair the colour of  
corn. They also spread the  
word that they had spent the  
war in heaven.

My plane landed on Motu  
Mote, so that I approached  
Bora-Bora by sea, over a  
lagoon and coral gardens,  
tying up at the Hotel Bora-  
Bora - at which exact mo-  
ment it started raining so  
enthusiastically that it pock-  
marked the sand like machine

gun fire. It poured for the  
duration of my three-day visit,  
letting up occasionally for a  
minute or two in order to  
summon the energy to rain  
more vehemently.

In a life of travel, I have  
noticed that torrential rain is  
not infrequently synchronized  
with a lowering of spirits and  
an urge to buzz off home. In  
Bora-Bora, these symptoms  
were reversed. I found myself  
swimming in the rain, walking  
in the rain, sailing in the rain.  
If I tell you I felt like singing in

the rain, you'll only groan, but  
that's about the sum of it. I am  
not sure why this happened.  
Usually I object to being wet,  
in Palmers Green or Paradise;  
but in Bora-Bora it was almost  
a celebration. Splashing through  
the "capital" of Vaitape  
(you'd miss it if you sneezed),  
I made no attempt to circum-  
navigate puddles. I did not  
shudder at the "Goldie Hawk  
Ate Here" notice outside  
Bloody Mary's. On the ver-  
anda of my hotel room -  
more a luxurious hut on stilts

over the lagoon - I stared  
contentedly at the rain. You  
tell me why.  
I did a lot of thinking in  
Bora-Bora's rain, about years  
ago when I knew a Malaysian  
princess in a place called Titik,  
where it also rained a lot. Once  
I asked her, with implacable  
stupidity, why she was so  
happy in the rain. "Because,"  
she replied gently, "it makes  
the flowers grow, and I can  
talk to God."  
I think she must have had  
Polynesian blood.

## TRAVEL NOTES

- Michael Watkins flew from London to Papeete via Los Angeles with Air New Zealand (01-830 1088). The low season excursion fare costs from £995 return. The economy return costs £2,024, and first class £4,082.
- His travel arrangements were made by Elegant Resorts, Lion House, 23, Watergate Row, Chester CH1 2LE (0244 325820). Elegant Resorts will tailor specific holiday requirements. For example: seven nights at the Hotel Bora-Bora, during the period January 21 to March 31, cost £1,995, including economy flights and transfers from Papeete. There is a daily supplement of £30 for half-board accommodation.
- The rainy season is from November to April. Tipping, generally, is considered impolite in French Polynesia - except at the large hotels.

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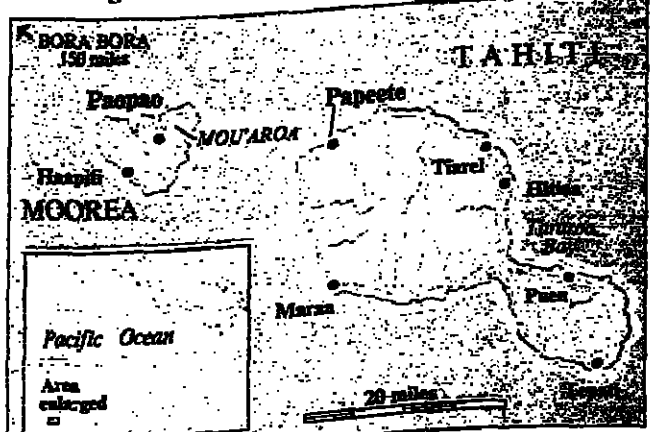
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Bewitching: Those almost-smiles mask emotions, never blatant





## TRAVEL

## Victors of Hugo

At the height of high season in the Caribbean last week, Domaine Grand Maison on Guadeloupe was a guesthouse without guests. This grandest of gites, a 19th-century planter's mansion with heart-stopping views over the ocean, was a casualty of world reaction to Hurricane Hugo, which devastated the island four months ago.

It is the same story all over Guadeloupe. Apart from a sprinkling of visitors at the top hotel, the beaches are deserted, the pools empty and the hoteliers distraught. The only activity on the famous Creole beach turned out to be a French fashion shoot. Official figures estimate the drop in visitors at 60 per cent.

"Four operators have directed clients away from the island," said Claude Pedourand, a seventh-generation islander and owner of the Golf Marina, a Creole-style hotel complex with an 18-hole golf course. "Independent travellers are afraid of another hurricane. Please tell them - hurricanes can't happen in high season, it's a meteorological impossibility."

The facts bear him out. Guadeloupe enjoys a typical Caribbean climate, 300 days of sunshine a year and a mean temperature of 75-80°F. There are three main seasons: December to May, when the balmy trade winds blow, the hot windless months of June to August, and finally the rainy season, September to November, when hurricanes, five so far this century, can occur. The tour operators' scepticism is understandable. Hugo had a force twice that of the atom bomb that hit Hiroshima, and only a monumental effort on the part of the islanders has restored tourist facilities to normal. Even the National Park, which sustained terrible damage, has had its tourist trails restored, and the famous landmark of L'Allée Dumanoir, a magnificent avenue of sky-scrapping royal palms, is virtually intact.

But away from the tourist haunts, the picture is different. At Moule, a small port on the Atlantic coast, postman Maurice Citadelle now delivers to a new destination, the Autre Côte beach, where a tent city houses the people whose waterfront homes were washed out to sea. In the centre of town, builders work round the clock to shore up the fine old colonial buildings, and a plastic tarpaulin

Four months of heroic effort have restored facilities to Guadeloupe after the hurricane. But the tourists have yet to return, Ros Drinkwater reports



Learning under canvas: temporary residents of the tent city at Moule

covers the roof of the 19th-century church.

In recognition of the island's plight, France has voted a capital injection of \$4.6 million in addition to the \$9.3 million promised by the EC. Guadeloupe enjoys a unique position as an EC region at the heart of the Americas, and much of the new money will be spent on developing tourism,

which is expected to take over the lead from the island's main industries of sugar and banana production.

For many islanders this idea strikes an odd note. A 1977 investigation discovered that the local population equated tourism with overseas investors aiming for a quick profit, an image that the Chamber of Commerce is now

working hard to dispel. The plan is to build a new airport and double tourist facilities within the next three years.

But as the saying goes, it's an ill wind that blows no one any good. Christian Perrier owns La Pigeonnière, arguably the best restaurant on the island. When he first arrived in 1986, locals marked him down as a crank when his first action was to build a sea wall between the ocean and his premises. He had experienced a hurricane in Mauritius and was taking no chances. A keen deep-sea fisherman with more than a passing interest in meteorology, he noted that the Guadeloupe hurricane of 1976 had coincided with the long dry European summer. When the European pattern repeated last year, he began preparations in earnest.

In this part of the world we have an excellent early warning system. On Alert 1, we prepare for the hurricane; on Alert 2, a curfew is imposed and essential services, water and electricity are cut. But when a hurricane is imminent, no deep-sea fisherman needs a warning - you can sense it out there on the ocean."

Perrier purchased two extra freezers and two generators to power them, and made provision to store water. Two days before Hugo, he brought in the boats, closed the restaurant and moved everything to a safe house in the mountains. While neighbouring restaurants were washed out to sea, the day after Hugo La Pigeonnière was open as usual, with the entire village crammed in to watch the television news and, despite the drop in tourism, business has been booming ever since.

"A hurricane need not be disastrous if preparations are made; it's a question of changing our attitude. After all, in ski resorts that get snowed in, they don't freeze or starve - they are ready," Perrier says. "You'll notice the locals speak of Monsieur Hugo - that's a good thing, it's time we paid nature and her forces the respect they deserve." In the wake of last week's weather, that is something we on this side of the Atlantic might do well to mull over.

Details of holidays on Guadeloupe are available from the French Government Tourist Office, 173 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-491 7622/499 6911).



Trunk road: the royal palms of Guadeloupe's L'Allée Dumanoir, miraculously spared by Hurricane Hugo



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